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Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception

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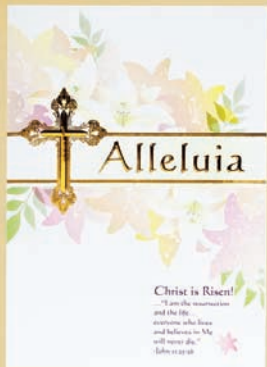
Jesus, I

Jesus, I Trust in You

Jesus, I Trust in You

Jesus, I Trust in You

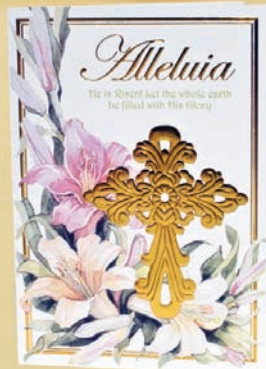
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Fr. Joseph's
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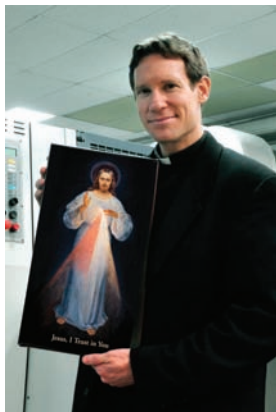
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MARIAN HELPER

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On the cover: From top, Curtis Bohner, Mark Fanders, Charlie Parise, and Br. Chris Alar, MIC, help Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, display the different sizes of the Vilnius image of that are now available on canvas from the Marian Helpers Center. Photo by Felix Carroll.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

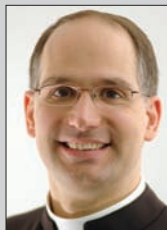
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- Offer our lives for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the victims of war and disease.
- Operate publishing apostolates and assist where the need is greatest in parishes, shrines, and missions.
- Promote the Divine Mercy message and devotion.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



Association of Marian Helpers (AMH)

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

More than 2 million members share in the spiritual benefits of the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marians.

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

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Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

The power of the image

As a gift for our time, Jesus has given us the image of Divine Mercy. In this issue, I've written the cover story about a special offer involving the image. I thought I'd also share with you in this column about one man's miraculous experience of Divine Mercy through this powerful image. His name is Ron Ragelis, and last October, he found himself in the path of a terrifying storm. Here is his account.

Late in the evening of Oct. 29, within hours of the brunt of Superstorm Sandy's landfall in New London, Conn., my immediate neighborhood was ordered to evacuate by the local authorities. My residential property is within 200 yards of the seawall and beachfront. Tidal surges of up to 11 feet were predicted, with sustained heavy winds of more than 80 miles per hour, all at lunar high tide.

As I prepared an emergency duffel bag for a few days' exodus from my home, I pondered additional protective measures for my property. Two more actions needed to be taken before my evacuation. I shut off the furnace, and then to invoke the Divine Mercy (Jesus Himself), I removed the framed, canvas Divine Mercy image (the Vilnius version) from my mantelpiece.

Then, I walked out to the backyard veranda with the image in hand. With no rain or sea-spray yet that could damage the image, I held it face up toward heaven and made the Sign of

the Cross, with the image facing the direction of the oncoming storm. While I was making the Sign of the Cross, I began to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet — using the same words in the *Diary* that St.

Faustina prayed to turn back the avenging angel who was about to strike the earth. I then returned the image to the mantelpiece,

locked the front door, and left.

When I was allowed to return to my house a day and a half later, I had to park my car a block away due to the massive damage from the tidal surges and heavy winds. This damage included but was not limited to downed electrical wires, trees, transformers, blasted-out seawalls, structural damage to homes, debris, and tons of beach sand that had been displaced on the main waterfront access road.

I crossed over the police line to my street and walked to my residential property. To my amazement, there was no damage to my house or grounds. Even the 21 beautiful Canadian Emerald Green Arborvitae that line the rear water side of my property were untouched. In comparison, the houses that surround mine sustained either fallen trees, roof damage, or basement flooding. Upon further inspection of my house, there was no loss of power or water in the basement, and I turned on the furnace without incident.

The street adjacent to my property, which provides direct access to the seawall and beachfront, revealed more telling evidence. The sea surge had stopped right at my property line. This was evident for two main reasons. First, the debris field of sand, seaweed, and salt film stopped right at my property line. Secondly, my immediate neighbor (who did not evacuate and who is located to the rear of my property toward the water) stated that the surge of seawater had stopped at my property line.

I believe with 100 percent certainty that Jesus, via the image of Divine Mercy and invoked with the chaplet, protected my property. In the Divine Mercy image, we see Jesus' foot stepping toward us and His right hand raised in blessing. Jesus calls us to respond to Him as He steps toward us. With His arm raised in blessing, He gives us the grace to act in trust.

Moved by grace, as the storm approached, I asked Jesus for help and placed my trust in Him. He took care of the rest.

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

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Father Joseph's Mailbox

We asked some of our Marian Helpers to share how they are marking the Year of Faith, especially in their parishes.

'I resolve to grow and help others learn'

I am doing a number of things as I resolve to grow and help others learn more about their faith.

Every morning, I start my day with a daily reading from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. There are several websites that I encourage everyone to visit that will help them get involved with their faith.

I am also a member of a Divine Mercy Cenacle, and we consecrated ourselves to Mary on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. That was very powerful because as we were reading Fr. Michael Gaitley's book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, we were reflecting on a passage from the *Diary of St. Faustina* about how she was also preparing for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Those combined with all the teachings of the saints in Fr. Mike's book made my consecration very special.

In January, we started new classes related to the Year of Faith here at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. The first is a small class for a Year of Faith Bible study by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, which I am facilitating. The second is for a group of 300 that is following the Great Adventure Bible Study series, which is geared to helping groups grow in faith together.

— TA, The Woodlands, Texas

'Many opportunities to grow spiritually'

We at St. John Neumann Church are being blessed with many opportunities to grow spiritually during the Year of Faith.

We offered a Catholicism series by Fr. Robert Barron. We are running small and large groups to learn about our Catholic faith during 10- and 20-week sessions.

Dr. Steven Smith came to our parish for the beginning of the Year of Faith. He did a weekend couple's retreat, teaching our couples more about the theology of marriage and how living and fulfilling God's plan for marriage can bring many blessings to their lives, the life of our



parish, and our society. As a follow-up, we are doing the "Six Great Date Nights," where couples come to our parish to share on a variety of topics about opportunities for spiritual growth.

For Lent, every Friday evening, we are having a different speaker come to our parish and lead us in a teaching and discussion about the social doctrines of the Church and how to put our faith into action. At the Masses, we will be preaching each weekend of Lent on a single topic of our Catholic faith, to go a little deeper into particular aspects of the faith.

We took several busloads of people to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. We believe that this was an awesome way to express and exercise our faith by standing up for the most vulnerable in our society during this Year of Faith.

Many of our regular parish programs are following the theme of the Year of Faith. For instance, our high school youth group is learning more this year about the social teachings of our Catholic faith and is putting these teachings into practice by serving the poor.

— Fr. DS, Sunbury, Ohio

Building faith through pilgrimages

My wife and I are working on developing a list of pilgrimages members of our parish can take to help them build their faith. We felt that if people could visit shrines, churches, or attend healing Masses during the Year of Faith, it would help them learn and grow. We offer them places they can travel to locally, within the state, within the U.S., or even globally. We say they can travel 20, 200, or 2,000 miles.

In addition, while out on these pilgrimages, we hand out lots of Divine Mercy materials to help educate those around us. We encourage them to say a prayer for our country, so that more people will rediscover their faith.

— CY, Marlin, Texas

I want to offer a special thanks to all of you for sharing your plans for the Year of Faith. Your examples may spur others to enter more fully into this time of grace. I would remind everyone that Pope Benedict XVI has said this special year is a time for "reflection and rediscovery of the faith."

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

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



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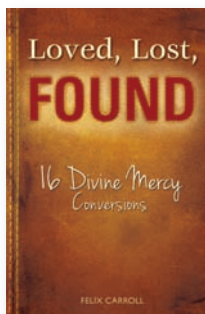
LOVED, LOST, FOUND

16 DIVINE MERCY CONVERSIONS

BY FELIX CARROLL

MARIAN PRESS, 230 PP., \$14.95. AVAILABLE MARCH 1

PRODUCT CODE: **B18-LLF16**



Are you passionate about the Divine Mercy message, and do you enjoy sharing it with others? Do you also like to dip into collections of stories, either first thing in the morning or before bedtime, for a quick, inspiring read?

If so, put this collection of Divine Mercy conversion stories on your must-read list for Lent. Also, recommend it to your family and friends, especially as Divine Mercy Sunday approaches.

Ranging from the narrative of an unfaithful husband to those of a prisoner and a rape victim, all 16 stories are riveting accounts of broken people encountering God's mercy and discovering that there is a path to healing and wholeness. It's fascinating that many of the people featured either have some sort of relationship with the Marian Fathers or have come on pilgrimage to the

National Shrine of The Divine Mercy here in Stockbridge, Mass. Perhaps their stories are, in a sense, part of our common mercy story.

The author of *Loved, Lost, Found* is Felix Carroll, one of our award-winning writers and our web editor at the Marian Helpers Center.

Here is what Ronda Chervin, a popular Catholic author, had to say about Felix and his book:

In our grim times, how we need to read about these victories of Divine Mercy in the lives of people as diverse as a dentist, a blind Jew turned Catholic, and a former abortionist. We even read about the father of a murdered daughter who tries to save her murderer from execution and a woman in a New Age cult who is attacked by Satan but then finds freedom in God's mercy.

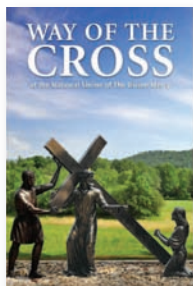
Felix Carroll is a wonderful stylist. He enters into the heart and soul and life of each of those he interviews, so that each one comes alive for us as we see the person transformed by the mercy of Jesus.

WAY OF THE CROSS AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

ARRANGED AND INTRODUCED BY THE SHRINE RECTOR FR. KEN DOS SANTOS, MIC

MARIAN PRESS, 80 PP., \$6.95. AVAILABLE FEB. 15

PRODUCT CODE: **B18-CWY3**



"It wasn't until I stood at the foot of the cross at the 12th Station on Eden Hill that the reality of Jesus' sacrifice hit me like a two-by-four across the head and heart. For several minutes, I stood there gazing up at the life-size depiction. Deafening silence overcame me with a true sorrow, knowing that it was my sins that had nailed Him to that cross," Seminarian Br. Chris, MIC, says. "At that moment, I experienced love. It was the love of the Father in sending His only Son to save me from my sins."

This is a passage from one of the meditations in the newly expanded *Way of the Cross*. If you are looking for a way to deepen your love for our crucified Savior, consider this book that celebrates the epic Eden Hill Stations of the Cross through prayers, meditations, and photos.

[Click here for preview](#)

If you can't make it here to Stockbridge, Mass., this book is the next best thing. Gaze upon stunning photos of these life-size sculptures as you follow either St. Faustina's Way of the Cross or a shorter traditional version. Both are included in this book. These photos can also inspire your reflection upon the meditations we offer for each of the Stations. Father Joe Roesch, MIC, and Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, are among those who wrote meditations.

Further, learn what it took to make this dream of life-size Stations a reality here on Eden Hill. In this book, we share the stories of the benefactors, the sculptor, and the creative process involved in making the Stations. (To see the Stations online, go to marian.org/stations.)

May the *Way of the Cross* help you this Lent and throughout the Year of Faith to experience God's love — the love of the Father in sending His only Son to save you from your sins.

Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

Why is Mercy Sunday so important?

Q. Why is Divine Mercy Sunday the most important element of the message and devotion that Jesus gave to St. Faustina?

A. If we examine all of the elements of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, we soon realize that they all exist to prepare us for, and to point us toward, the “Feast of Mercy,” which our Lord asked for (see *Diary*, 699). He desired that the Feast be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. Indeed, the readings and prayers for Mass on that day reflect God’s great mercy. We are encouraged to pray the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet to prepare for the Feast, which many people do at three o’clock, the Hour of Great Mercy. The image of the Divine Mercy is to be venerated on the Feast of Mercy. Works of mercy are to be performed “always and everywhere,” but especially on Divine Mercy Sunday, “out of love for [Jesus]” (*Diary*, 742).

In fact, many parishes celebrate the Feast of Mercy more solemnly by venerating the image at Mass and then celebrating a Holy Hour at three o’clock, with the chaplet and other prayers.

Further, consider that Divine Mercy Sunday is the Octave Day of Easter, the Church’s greatest feast. Great feasts in the Bible were celebrated for eight days, with the first and last days being celebrated more solemnly. The last day was even considered the greatest day of the feast. It’s significant, then, that Jesus made special promises about the Feast of Mercy. For those who go to confession (preferably during Lent) and receive Holy Communion worthily on the day, the Lord promises “complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (*Diary*, 699).

The whole purpose of the Feast of Mercy is to prepare us for the Second Coming of Christ. While we are still here on earth, the most powerful way of meeting our Lord is through the Sacraments. The Risen Savior wishes to meet us in a special way on the Octave Day of Easter, offering us extraordinary graces through the Sacraments as a sign of His great mercy.

Q. Why do we give alms? And why is almsgiving especially encouraged during Lent?

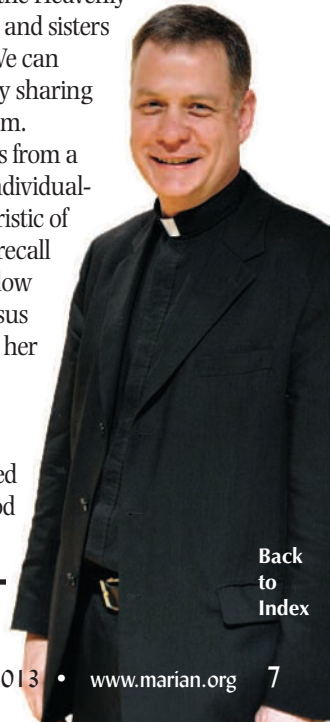
A. The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday (see Mt 6:1-6, 16-18) speaks of giving alms, fasting, and praying. This Gospel passage sets the tone for the season of Lent and teaches us what our priorities should be during this important time of preparation for Easter.

The word alms comes from a Greek word that means pity or mercy. Almsgiving involves charitable material assistance to the poor for the sake of Christ. All who are blessed with possessions are to give thanks to God by sharing what they have with those in need. Jesus frequently spoke about this in the Gospels.

It is an especially helpful spiritual practice during Lent, since it is one of the paths to conversion of heart. We can easily become too attached to our possessions, even seeking to find our identity in them. Jesus frequently spoke about the dangers that can ensnare the rich, who can see themselves as being the center of all things and completely self-sufficient.

We are dependent on God for every breath that we take. Therefore, self-sufficiency is an illusion. By freely giving away some of what we own, we acknowledge that God is at the center and that we are more than just the sum of what we own. All that we have comes to us from our loving Father in heaven, who invites us to share with our brothers and sisters who are suffering from want. In this way, we can discover our true identity as children of the Heavenly Father and as brothers and sisters of all God’s children. We can draw closer to others by sharing what we have with them.

This also liberates us from a type of isolation and individualism, which is characteristic of our world today. If we recall the example of the widow in the Gospel whom Jesus praised for giving from her want, we can see how almsgiving can lead to purity of heart. It reminds us that we need to place our trust in God and not in ourselves.



Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, welcomes your questions. Send them to: Ask a Marian, Editorial, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or e-mail ask@marian.org.

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FELIX CARROLL

In his presentation titled, “Eucharistic Miracles: A Dialogue Between Science and Faith,” Dr. Ricardo Castanon provided findings that would make any skeptic think twice. The famed scientific researcher spoke to a full house on Dec. 11 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.

A matter of faith, a matter of fact

In Shrine talk, researcher reveals findings of Eucharistic miracles.

by Felix Carroll

As Catholics, we take the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist as a matter of faith. But a recent presentation at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, in Stockbridge, Mass., provided evidence for non-believers that the Real Presence should be taken as a matter of fact.

At the invitation of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, famed scientific researcher Ricardo Castanon, Ph.D., presented findings of Eucharistic miracles and other phenomena. As Western society’s drift from religion continues, Dr. Castanon says, these findings should prompt a dialogue between science and faith, two systems of thought frequently viewed as being at loggerheads.

“After you see this, your Communion will not be the same because you will see a miracle,” Dr. Castanon, a native of Bolivia, told a full house at the Shrine on Tuesday, Dec. 11, in introducing his presentation. “You will see that when Jesus

says [in the Gospels], ‘This is My Body,’ that this is the truth.”

From atheist to believer

President and researcher of Grupo Internacional para la Paz in Bolivia, a non-profit organization consisting of self-financed research professionals, Dr. Castanon was a professed atheist until 20 years ago, soon after he was called upon to investigate mystical phenomena, including stigmata, weeping statues, and bleeding Hosts. A man whose discipline demands that claims be substantiated by science, Dr. Castanon initially expected to find cases of fraud, but instead — after meticulous study — discovered findings that science could not explain.

His research continues to this day and includes a reported Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires, Argentina, involving a Host that developed coagulated blood and flesh. A neuro-psychophysiologist (an expert in relating the

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physical and chemical activities of the brain to human behavior), Dr. Castanon has been called upon by the Vatican to conduct research throughout the world.

His presentation moved many in the audience to tears.

“I found Dr. Castanon’s talk to be extremely powerful,” said Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC. Father Ken noted that the nature of Dr. Castanon’s formal science education — which “taught him to be an atheist, to trust in only what he can see, touch, and demonstrate” — only underscores the miraculous nature of his current work.

“His work,” said Fr. Ken, “echoes the sentiment of Blessed John Paul II, who said that faith and science are like two wings leading people to God.”

Beyond the shadow of a doubt

If it’s the scientific method people need to believe, then it’s the scientific method that Dr. Castanon can provide.

Indeed, there may not be any better way to tear down the barrier between science and faith than by proving Christ’s declaration at the Last Supper when He held the bread and said, “This is My body” and held the cup of wine and said, “This is My blood” (Mk 14:22-24).

Among the most famous examples of such proof is found in the Miracle of Lanciano in Italy, in which a Host became Flesh and the wine became Blood around 700. Studies throughout the centuries have validated the claim.

In 1999, called in to research the alleged Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires, Dr. Castanon discovered incredible similarities with the famous Host in Lanciano.

The Buenos Aires case began in 1996 when a Host was accidentally dropped during Communion. As is the custom, the priest placed the Host in a container of water and put it into the Tabernacle, where it was expected to dissolve. Several days later, the priest was startled to discover the Eucharist had grown in size and was covered with red splotches. Eventually, the Host looked like a piece of flesh.

Dr. Castanon had a sample from the Host sent to Dr. Frederick Zugibe, a forensic

expert in New York who was told nothing about the circumstances surrounding the case so as to not prejudice the study. Dr. Zugibe testified that the sample was a fragment of a heart muscle and contained a large number of white blood cells, which is telling.

“It is my contention that the heart was alive, since white blood cells die outside a living organism,” Dr. Zugibe said. “They require a living organism to sustain them. Thus, their presence indicates that the heart was alive when the sample was taken. What is more, these white blood cells had penetrated the tissue, which further indicates that the heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest.”

‘I must talk about this’

Dr. Castanon said that he and his colleagues were astounded by this news.

When informed that the analyzed sample came from a consecrated Host, Dr. Zugibe replied that it was an “inexplicable mystery to science —

a mystery totally beyond his competence.”

Moreover, Dr. Castanon said that the blood on the Host in Buenos Aires is type AB — just like that of Eucharistic miracles elsewhere, including Lanciano, as well as the blood discovered on the famous Shroud of Turin,

“I must talk about this,” Dr. Castanon said, “because we have lost respect for the Eucharist.”

In his Shrine presentation, Dr. Castanon also shared studies he and his team did on a plaster statue of Jesus Christ in Bolivia that began weeping and bleeding in 1995. An X-ray revealed the statue had not been tampered with. After isolating the statue from all contact, Dr. Castanon captured the phenomenon on video.

Upon taking samples of the more than 90 scabs that had formed on the statue, tests revealed that the scabs were comprised of two-thirds human blood and one-third plant material — a thorn, possibly, that originated from a dry environment “like Palestine,” Dr. Castanon said.

“When I see these things in the 21st century ... this is the hand of God,” Dr. Castanon said. “I think this is a very special gift for us.”



COURTESY OF BRVAN THATCHER

The Miracle of Lanciano (shown in this reliquary) is officially recognized by the Catholic Church as a Eucharistic miracle. Around 700 in Lanciano, Italy, a Host became Flesh and the wine Blood as a doubting priest spoke the Words of Consecration at Mass.

Newest Marian priest serves in Midwest

On Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Marians welcomed their newest priest, as “Deacon” Ronald Lynn McBride, MIC, became “Fr.” Ronald Lynn McBride, MIC. He is now serving at one of the Marian Fathers’ parishes in the Midwest.

“This has been an amazing journey for me,” said Fr. Ron, following the

Mass of ordination at Our Lady of Peace Church in Darien, Ill., with the Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., presiding as the main celebrant and ordaining bishop. “I have had so many people praying for me, and I am so grateful to God.”

Father Ron’s late vocation in his 60s distinguishes him from the many younger Marian seminarians. He’s a man who has survived two failed marriages and once lived a lifestyle that was far from God.

In his darkest days in the 1990s, having nowhere else to turn, he implored Mary as Our Lady



Consecrating his entire heart, soul, and life to the Lord for the glory of God and the sanctification of God’s people, “Deacon” Ronald McBride, MIC, became “Fr.” Ronald McBride, MIC, on Dec. 8, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Darien, Ill.

Refuge of Sinners, “Please bring me back to Jesus.” The Blessed Mother responded, and his reconversion to the Catholic faith, which bears powerful witness to the mercy of God, led him to religious life as a professed brother and eventually to the priesthood.

It all culminated for him when he was ordained to the sacred order of the priesthood before family, friends, and fellow Marians. They included his two daughters — Angela Henson and Lyssa Seale. At 69, Fr. Ron is the only Marian Father in the United States who is a “father,” grandfather, and great grandfather.

He is serving at Our Lady of Peace Church, where he was ordained.

“We are so blessed to have him here,” said Fr. Walter Dziordz, MIC, the pastor, emphasizing how valuable Fr. Ron’s life experience is in his ministry to parishioners.

For more on Fr. Ron’s ordination, go online to thedivinemercy.org/news/5104.

Founder’s canonization process begins

The diocesan process for the canonization of Marian Father Founder Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski got under way on Nov. 16, says Marian Vicar General Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC. Marians and their Helpers are being asked to pray, entrusting the success of the process to Mary Immaculate, the patroness of the Marian Congregation.

The diocesan process involves the examination of an alleged miracle through Blessed Stanislaus’s intercession. No details of the case can be released at this time. If examiners find cause for its validity, the case could eventually be sent to the Vatican for review.

A late-summer NACOM out West

Though plans were not finalized as of press time, the Marians have announced that this year’s North American Congress on Mercy (NACOM) will take place in late summer on the West Coast. Such continental congresses are celebrated after World Apostolic Congresses on Mercy (WACOM), the last of which was held in October 2011 in Lagiewniki, Poland.

Marian U.S. Provincial Superior, the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, says the event will most likely take place in California and will be presented in both English and Spanish.

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Bring the message of Divine Mercy to your parish



Invite the Marians to speak about Divine Mercy. For information, call Valerie Laurizio at (413) 298-1349 or e-mail her at parishmissions@marian.org.

Simple

In the News: Marians' Divine Mercy Apostolates



The Most Rev. Robert McManus (left), Bishop of Worcester, Mass., will chair the panel discussion "To Live and Die with Dignity: The Role of Palliative Care" this April at the Healthcare conference in Worcester.

Healthcare conference set for April

The Ninth Annual "Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference," sponsored by Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers, will take place Wednesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 11, on the campus of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

"We are excited once again to be presenting this conference at Holy Cross," says Marie Romagnano, RN, founder and director of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. Nurse Marie says that the Most Rev. Robert McManus, Bishop of Worcester, will again chair the panel discussion. The discussion, always one of the conference's highlights, will have as its theme, "To Live and Die with Dignity: The Role of Palliative Care."

Speakers include Fr. Germain Kopaczynski, OFM, Conv., Catholic bioethicist and former director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center; Dr. Scot Bateman, MD, division chief, Pediatric Critical Care, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, vicar general, Marian Fathers; Sr. M. Donata Farbaniec, OLM, Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; Nurse Marie; Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, theologian, author, and former director of the Association of Marian Helpers; the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior, Mother of Mercy Province, Marian Fathers; Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of

the Association of Marian Helpers and noted author; Dr. Mark Rollo, MD; and Dr. Lucy Bayer-Zwirello, MD, chief of maternal fetal medicine, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center and Tufts University.

The conference includes a wide range of topics pertaining to bioethics. Education credits are available for nurses, doctors, social workers, pastoral caregivers, and other allied healthcare professionals.

To register, call 1-800-462-7426, or visit thedivinemercy.org/worcester.

Cenacles are ideal for the Year of Faith

"Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy," Jesus told St. Faustina (*Diary*, 301). This Year of Faith is an ideal time to learn about God's greatest attribute, that of His Divine Mercy.

One popular way to learn about Divine Mercy with group support is to either join or form a Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) cenacle. The format uses the *Diary of St. Faustina* and integrates Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* into faith sharing, prayer, and works of mercy for small groups.

"We have over 3,000 cenacles in the United States and are now active in 35 countries," says EADM Founder and Director Bryan Thatcher, MD. "The *Diary* is so rich in spirituality that it is a must read for those wishing to grow in faith and trust in God. All we did was provide a guided format through the *Diary*, and it is has become popular and spread like wildfire.

"Another option is to watch Series One and Two of the *Cenacle of The Divine Mercy* shows that have aired on EWTN. Each 13-part series features a group discussion on a particular theme of Divine Mercy and comes with a study guide complete with questions for discussion," says Dr. Thatcher.

For more information, call EADM at 1-877-380-0727 or e-mail the apostolate at eadm@marian.org.

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATES WANT TO COME TO YOUR PARISH!



For more information, contact Mark Fanders at 1-866-895-3236 or mfanders@marian.org, or visit thedivinemercy.org/ministries.

The Divine Mercy Apostolates represent four unique lay outreach ministries of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. These four apostolates bring the message of Divine Mercy to churches and communities throughout the country.



Rob and Jennifer Kestyn and their children Meredith and Emily hang the image of Divine Mercy in their home. They chose to hang the image by the front door, so they could venerate it every day before heading out.

Fr. Joseph's dream come true

You can order a quality, affordable Divine Mercy image for your home.

by Fr. Joseph, MIC

It's time for some firsts. For starters, this is the first time I'm writing a cover story, the first time I've volunteered to write an article, and the first time I've really looked forward to writing one. In fact, I've never been so excited to write! Why? Because of another "first" that I'm eager to tell you about.

I'm overjoyed to announce that for the first time, the Marian Fathers are offering a brand new, freshly restored, stunningly beautiful, gallery-wrapped Divine Mercy image on museum-quality canvas — all for an incredibly low price and at a size ideal for display in homes.

Forgive me if this sounds like a commercial. It's just that I really want to share this great news with you as a Marian Helper. For me, it's a dream come true. Imagine the impact of such a beautiful Divine Mercy image being displayed and venerated by the faithful in thousands of homes across our land. Imagine the image in your home.

The Marians restore the image

Before I share with you about the canvas Divine Mercy image we are offering, I want to

say something about the image itself and why it's so amazing.

First of all, there are various versions of the Divine Mercy image, which is a blessing. After all, Jesus told St. Faustina, "Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace" (*Diary*, 313). However, there's only one image of Divine Mercy that St. Faustina herself directed to have painted. This special painting is known as the "Vilnius image," because it was painted in the city of Vilnius, located in modern day Lithuania. The Vilnius image, which is based on St. Faustina's eyewitness account of the Merciful Jesus, is by far my favorite version of the image of Divine Mercy — but there was a time when I didn't like it at all.

For years, the original Vilnius image hung in a church where the flickering light of votive candles illuminated it day and night. Unfortunately, with time, a thick layer of soot formed on the surface of the painting, darkening it. The first Divine Mercy prayercard I ever saw reproduced this soot-covered painting. There was little trace of the power of the Resurrection gloriously breaking through the darkness. Instead, the

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Light of the World seemed to ominously fade into a black background.

In fact, the Marians received several complaints about it. To solve this problem, during the Great Jubilee Year 2000, we approached the Cardinal Archbishop of Vilnius and offered to have the image restored. The Cardinal readily accepted such a generous offer, and the Marians had the image professionally cleaned and restored back to its original glorious state, which was only possible with the financial assistance of many Marian Helpers.

Improving the restored image's quality

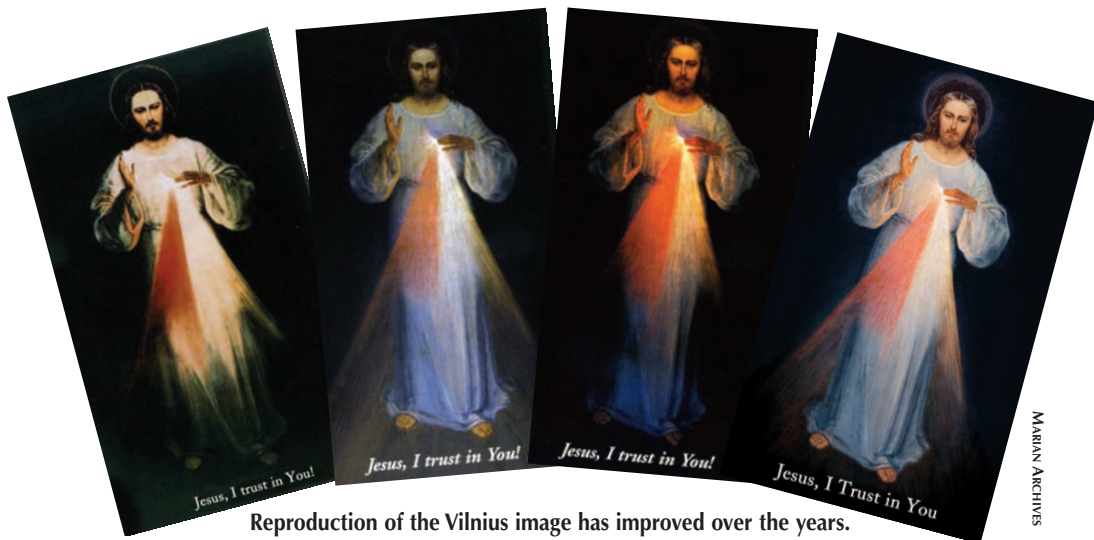
What a difference the restoration made! Unfortunately, the official photograph of the restored image was not of the best quality. It certainly was an improvement from the soot-covered image, but it was still too dark. Well, the Marians had to make the best of it, and we produced hundreds of thousands of prayercards based on the photo we'd been given. Over the years, though, as computer technology developed, the Marians were able to digitally adjust the photo to improve the image's quality. As soon as I saw one of these new and improved images, I changed my opinion of the Vilnius image, and it quickly became my favorite.

Years later in 2008, I had the joy of attending the beatification of St. Faustina's spiritual

Well, when I became "Fr. Joseph, MIC," director of the Association of Marian Helpers, on Jan. 1, 2011, that day came. First, with the help of my provincial superior, the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, we were able to obtain a high-quality photo of the restored Vilnius image. Then, I asked several graphic artists, most notably, Curtis Bohner, to do their best to improve the quality of the image. Using the latest computer technology to adjust the brightness and contrast, these graphic artists yielded an incredible result. In fact, everyone who saw the newly improved image had the same response, "Wow!" We all agreed that this newly improved image was *even more beautiful* than the prayercard I'd received at Fr. Sopoko's beatification.

The canvas challenge

Once we had such a new and improved image, we immediately began to print it on prayercards and larger prints. When I saw the first batch that came off the press, I just about cried. I was so happy! I knew that the images would touch countless hearts and that we were producing what many were calling "the most beautiful Divine Mercy image in the world." But I wasn't completely satisfied. I remember thinking to myself, "This latest Divine Mercy image is so glorious that it deserves to be on canvas."



Reproduction of the Vilnius image has improved over the years.

director, Fr. Michael Sopocko, in Bialystok, Poland. Before the Mass began, young people passed out prayercards of the Vilnius image to those in attendance. I took one, and after glancing at it, I had to do a double-take, saying to myself, "Where did *this* come from?" Indeed, this Vilnius image was much clearer, brighter, and more vibrant than the ones the Marians had been producing. I decided right then and there that someday I would work to improve the Marians' image, so it could be just as beautiful.

Now, by this time, I'd learned that gallery-wrapped, canvas images are the highest quality you can get. ("Gallery wrapped" means that the canvas is stretched over and fastened to an interior frame of wood.) However, I also knew that such images cost hundreds of dollars. Surely, not many people can afford them. But didn't Jesus say to Faustina regarding the image, "Let every soul have access to it"? Indeed, He did. (See *Diary*, 570.) Therefore, I had a new challenge: To make our new Vilnius image available

on gallery-wrapped canvas *at an affordable price.*

What price? Without hesitation, I knew it had to be \$19.95. Why? Because, I figured, 20 dollars was a price that most people could afford. Not surprisingly, though, when I mentioned this price goal to others, they laughed. In fact, one joked, "Sure, you can sell gallery-wrapped, canvas images at that price, but they'll have to be the size of a stamp!" Well, I certainly didn't intend to sell micro-sized Divine Mercy images. So, I settled on what I believe is the perfect-size image for a home, 10" x 18", and I called a meeting with two of my Marian brothers, Br. Chris Alar, MIC, and Mark Fanders, a lay *aggregatus* member of the community.

Before entering the Marians, both Br. Chris and Mark had been very successful in the business world, and they'd left everything to help spread the message of Divine Mercy. I figured

that they could help make my dream a reality. To my disappointment, though, the meeting didn't start out well. When I told them my goal — gallery-wrapped, canvas images for \$19.95 — they said it couldn't be done. I told them it had to be done, and they said, "Okay."

The dream comes true

With the help of our printshop manager, Charlie Parise, Br. Chris and Mark found a special canvas process that would allow us to print our Divine Mercy image on museum-quality canvas in such a way that the image would be waterproof, smudge-proof, and fade-proof (guaranteed not to fade for 50 years). Just one problem: The process was relatively expensive, and they told me I'd have to raise the price. I said, "No. It's got to be \$19.95. Please find a way." Again, they said, "Okay."

After weeks of research, Br. Chris and Mark came up with a plan whereby we could sell 10" x 18" gallery-wrapped images for \$19.95

— but we'd have to bring the entire production process in house. I said, "Alright, then let's make it happen."

So, working with the head of maintenance on Eden Hill, the guys were able to find a way to rotate our maintenance staff to produce the images during slower work times, such as the winter months. Also, working with Francis Bourdon, executive director of the Marian

Helpers Center, they were able to find a way to rotate office staff to produce the images during the slower work times in the office, such as the summer months. Great! We now had our labor force, but just one last problem: the cost of the equipment.

Mark and Br. Chris explained to me that unless someone donated the capital to purchase the equipment needed for the whole in-house production process — the gallery-wrap machine, canvas

supply, wood, special printer, shipping materials, and work stations — then we wouldn't be able to begin the work. Well, we turned to the Lord in prayer, and on the very morning when we were to make the decision, a Marian Helper called one of our Marian priests. For some reason, she felt she should call, adding, "Do you need any help?" This priest asked her to call me, and when I told her about the project, she immediately committed the amount we needed to get started!

So, thanks to God and the help of so many people, I'm overjoyed to announce that you can now order an unbelievably beautiful, canvas, gallery-wrapped 10" x 18" Vilnius Divine Mercy image for just \$19.95 (plus shipping and handling)! I see this as one of the Lord's special gifts to you for your home for the Year of Faith. As for me, it surely is a dream come true.

To order the 10" x 18" Vilnius image (B18-PV10GW) and for other versions, sizes, prices, and even framing options, visit www.DivineMercyArt.com.



In addition to the special offer for the 10" by 18" Vilnius image, we are also offering the Hyla and Skemp versions of the image, along with an image of Mary Immaculate.

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MH

Two great ways to partner with the Marian Fathers

1. Venerate the image of Divine Mercy

You can help Fr. Joseph, MIC, with his goal of getting a Divine Mercy image into every home and church for the Year of Faith. The images offered include versions of the image of Divine Mercy and one of Mary Immaculate on canvas, at affordable prices, and in various sizes. For more information, go to DivineMercyArt.com or call 1-800-462-7426.



*Order a 10" x 18" Vilnius image for just \$19.95. A 10" x 18" Vilnius with frame starts at \$49.95. Prices subject to change. Does not include S&H. B18-PV10GW

2. Become a Friend of Mercy

Partner with the Marians in spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion. Receive our monthly newsletter, get tips on living the message and sharing mercy with others, join in praying the Chaplet, and more!

To learn more, call 1-800-671-2020

or go to

TheDivineMercy.org/friends.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY POLASKY

Amy and Doug Polasky, with their children Joseph and Mary Katherine, light a candle for a special intention at the National Shrine of St. Joseph in De Pere, Wis. [Click here](#) to participate in our St. Joseph Novena.

ONE FAMILY'S TRUSTED INTERCESSOR

How the Polaskys' devotion to St. Joseph has involved their adoptive children.

by Felix Carroll

Just before her 40th birthday in 2008, Amy Polasky's husband, Doug, surprised her with the following proposal:

"Honey, I'd like to take you on a trip, just the two of us, anywhere in the world you'd like to go. You name the place."

Amy was elated, but she needed time to think about a destination.

During the next few days, she thought of a number of foreign destinations: Austria? Prague? South America? But her mind kept returning to one place that's not a typical vacation spot. It wasn't so much a "place" she felt drawn to but rather a saint. She wanted to spend her birthday with St. Joseph.

"I want to go to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal," she announced to her husband.

Doug furrowed his brow.

"— and I want to bring the kids," Amy added, excitedly.

So, Canada — with the kids — it was.

It should have come as no surprise, really. That common carpenter from Nazareth, whom God the Father entrusted with the pro-



tection of His only begotten Son, has served as a powerful intercessor and a great model of family life for the Polaskys.

A birthday with St. Joseph

Amy's birthday trip only further fortified the relationship.

Upon entering the cavernous, heavenly St. Joseph's Oratory, the Polaskys marveled at the wall displayed with thousands of crutches and other artifacts from over the years of those who came to the basilica and were reportedly healed through the intercession of St. Joseph. Amy, herself, experienced a miracle within a week following the pilgrimage when a complicated prayer intention she brought before St. Joseph was answered precisely in

the manner for which she had prayed.

She prefers to keep that prayer confidential. Suffice it to say, though, Amy strongly recommends turning in prayer to St. Joseph. He being the Patron Saint of the universal Church, the Patron Saint of the Worker, and head of the household for the Holy Family, she says, St. Joseph stands ready to help in all matters but particularly in matters related to

employment, family, and providing for family.

“God is so good,” says Amy, who lives in Green Bay, Wis., “and He chooses to work so powerfully through St. Joseph, in a manner that can take your breath away.”

In a manner of speaking, Our Lady led Amy to a devotion to St. Joseph. After all, she went to a grammar school named Notre Dame (French for “Our Lady”) and from there graduated to none other than an academy named after St.

Joseph. Her affection for St. Joseph intensified shortly before she and Doug became parents in 2005, when they began to contemplate the enormity of the responsibilities that parenthood entailed.

In pursuing adoption, the Polaskys sought St. Joseph’s intercession to be the parents of a boy from Guatemala. There were many obstacles, and all indications were that the boy would go to another family. It turned out those plans fell through, and Amy and Doug were awarded custody. His birth name was Jose. The Polaskys changed it to the English equivalent: yep, Joseph.

Intercessor and model for family life

But why this affinity for St. Joseph?

In short, because St. Joseph was strong, humble, loyal, a protector, and a steadfast guardian. He was a man of prayer, a father, and a husband with a heart full of love and self-sacrifice. Certainly, no one more than St. Joseph can relate to the enormity of parental responsibilities. Despite the duty God gave him, which entailed nothing less than the radical redirection of his life, St. Joseph remained unwavering in his trust of the Lord and in his love for Jesus and Mary.

“I read a lot about what mystics and historians say about St. Joseph,” says Amy, who is a longtime supporter of the Marians’ mission in Rwanda. “Saint Joseph took such good care of Jesus when He was growing up. I think he had an absolutely mind-boggling mission to protect our Lord and Our Lady and to provide for them. He knows what it’s like when anyone’s child is in danger. His Child was literally being hunted [by King Herod], and he instantly sprang into action.”

Not to mention: Jesus was an *adopted* Son of Joseph. Though not His biological father, St. Joseph embraced Jesus as his own. That makes St. Joseph all the more meaningful for the Polaskys, who adopted their second child, Mary Katherine, in 2007.

“Sometimes I look at these children, and I cannot believe God has entrusted these treasures to us,” Amy says. “I watch them sleep, and my eyes well up with tears. I think, ‘What have I

done to deserve such a gift?’ I can’t imagine what St. Joseph experienced when he got up to check on Jesus in the night. Even though his Child was God, the Holy Family was like regular families are today in many respects.”

Involving the children

Amy and Doug’s devotion to St. Joseph has rubbed off on their children. For instance, on All Saints Day, the students at their son’s

school dress up as favorites saints. Joseph always chooses St. Joseph.

“We try to make the Holy Family as tangible as possible for our kids,” Amy says.

Amy recommends that families keep a statue of St. Joseph in a place of honor in their homes. She recommends that, through prayer, they invite St. Joseph to enter their homes, spiritually, to protect them, guide them, and help keep them holy and ready to serve God as he did.

She also recommends that, as we prepare to celebrate St. Joseph’s feast day on March 19, families pray a novena to him, entrusting their prayer intentions to him. To include your intentions in the Novena to St. Joseph at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, call 1-800-462-7426.

“Saint Joseph is such a powerful intercessor,” Amy says. “After the Virgin Mary, there is no more powerful saint with the Lord. I can honestly say that any time I have turned to him in prayer, my intentions have been granted. It might not have been in the way I had envisioned or in the time frame I wanted, but in those instances, the result was even better than I could have hoped.”

Amy continues, “Go to St. Joseph and trust that your prayers will be heard. God trusted St. Joseph with His only Son. We can trust him, too.”



Mary Katherine Polasky holds a St. Joseph statue as she sits next to her brother Joseph. “This statue of St. Joseph is from their native Guatemala and is special to our family,” Amy says.

THE CHURCH'S MERCY DOCTOR?

**POPE JOHN PAUL II MADE THE
CASE FOR DECLARING ST. FAUSTINA
A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.**

Adapted in part from the
Beatification Edition of *John Paul II:
The Great Mercy Pope*.

by David Came

Will Pope Benedict XVI declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church, as formally requested by the cardinals and bishops who attended the second World Apostolic World Congress on Mercy in October 2011?

There's no news yet. As we wait, it's fascinating to explore how Pope John Paul II made a strong case for recognizing St. Faustina as the Church's Mercy Doctor.

Before making the case, though, we need to know the criteria the Pope weighs in deciding whether to declare a particular saint a Doctor of the Church.

Father Joe Roesch, MIC, this magazine's "Ask a Marian" columnist, researched the matter. He says, "The traditional criteria have been that the person is a canonized saint whose holiness is exemplary, even among the saints, and whose learning and teaching is outstanding.

"In 1970, Pope Paul VI added three new criteria: that the saint's message has current and permanent value; that he or she bore witness to the faith in life; and that the person's testimony has a particular character, especially a spiritual and mystical character that inspires others."

So, let's see if John Paul II's case for St. Faustina meets these criteria.

A message, a feast for mercy

First, consider the significance of what Pope John Paul II said and did when he canonized Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000. By canonizing her, he said in his homily that he was passing on "this message" of Divine Mercy — the message Jesus had given her — to the new millennium:



The Great Mercy Pope makes a strong case for why St. Faustina should be made a Doctor of the Church. The great value of the *Diary* in showing "the depth of her mystical experience" is just one of the points he makes in her favor.

Sister Faustina's canonization has a particular eloquence. By this act I intend today to pass this message on to the new millennium. I pass it on to all people, so that they will learn to know even better the true face of God and the true face of their brethren.

In his homily, the Great Mercy Pope also established Divine Mercy Sunday — the most important aspect of the Divine Mercy message and devotion — as a universal feast day: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the Word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

Thus, John Paul II gave the Church a universal feast day and a message for our times, both emphasizing Divine Mercy.

Urgency of the message

Then, John Paul II in 2002 went to the Basilica of Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, Poland, where St. Faustina lived, died, and was buried. He came to consecrate the Basilica and entrust the world to Divine Mercy. In his entrustment homily, he strikes a note of urgency about spreading Divine Mercy:

Today, therefore, in this Shrine, 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 St. 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" (*Diary*, 1732). This spark needs to be lighted by the grace of God. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world.

Here, John Paul not only emphasizes the need to pass on "this fire of mercy," but he also quotes from St. Faustina's *Diary* about the important role of Divine Mercy in preparing the world for the Second Coming of Christ.

Value of the *Diary*

In his final book, *Memory and Identity*, John Paul II highlighted St. Faustina's "rich mystical life" and the great value of her *Diary*:

[Saint Faustina] was chosen by Christ to be a particularly enlightened interpreter of the truth of Divine Mercy. For Sister Faustina, this truth led to an extraordinarily rich mystical life. She was a simple, uneducated person, and yet those who read the *Diary* of her revelations are astounded by the depth of her mystical experience.

It is also telling that in two places in *Memory and Identity*, John Paul states that St. Faustina's patrimony is not only for the Poles but for all peoples. Here's what he says in one place:

I mention Sister Faustina because her revelations, focused on the mystery of Divine Mercy, occurred during the period preceding the Second World War. This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, Nazism, and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of offsetting the evil of those ideologies, the fact that

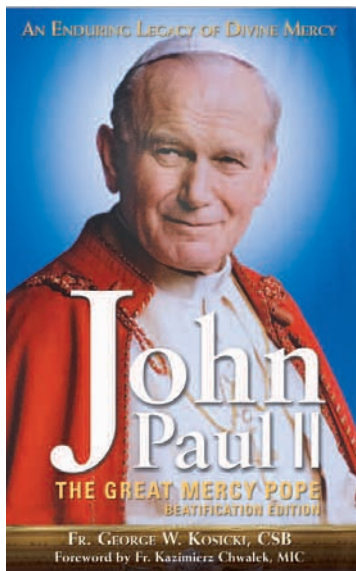
God is Mercy — the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserved a place in the treasury of the universal Church.

Now, I invite you to return to the criteria for a Doctor of the Church. I think you'll agree that the Great Mercy Pope makes a strong case for St. Faustina.

Please join with the Marian Fathers in praying that Pope Benedict soon declares her the Church's Mercy Doctor.

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As we mark this special year for St. Faustina in preparing for the 75th Anniversary of her death this fall, discover the profound influence St. Faustina had on John Paul II in this book, *John Paul II: The Great Mercy Pope*. See page 30 for ordering information.



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'A CRASH COURSE IN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY'

Why I wrote *The 'One Thing' Is Three*.

by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

Excerpted from the Marian Press title *The 'One Thing' Is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything*.

This book is for people such as my brother and sister. My sister has seven kids, homeschools, and doesn't have a lot of time to study theology. My brother also has a family and a demanding job—he, too, can't delve deeply into theology. Yet there's nothing more wonderful to study! So, I wrote this book for them, and if you're like my brother and sister, then I wrote it for you, too. Look at it as a kind of crash course in Catholic theology written for busy people and in a way, I hope, that's simple and easy to understand.

The 'one thing'

As I write, I'm a recently ordained priest, and before my ordination, I'd been not just a seminarian but a professional seminarian. I say "professional" because I ended up having more than 15 years of formal theology studies and preparation to become a priest. (Unless you're a Jesuit, this is *not* the norm.) During those many years of listening to lectures, reading countless books, and writing hundreds of papers, I was always looking for the "one thing" that could bring it all together, the one thing that could make it all simple, the one thing that could provide a key to the Church's wisdom. I figured that if I could find this one thing, not only would it make me happy, but then I'd have a much easier time sharing the Church's wisdom with others.

I believe I found it. The "one thing" is *three*. The one thing is the greatest mystery of our faith. And actually, the one thing is not really a "thing" at all but rather three divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Most Holy Trinity. Now, unfortunately, this one

thing is not so well known. It's often seen as esoteric, obscure, and outside of normal life. This book is meant to change that. It's meant to bring the Trinity home to our hearts, make difficult theology easy to understand, and share the highlights of a 15-year formal search for the one thing.

Similarities to *Consoling*

The rationale behind this book is similar to that of my first book, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*. Both books try to present a kind of key. *Consoling* is all about presenting a key to the spiritual life. After all, part of my many years in the seminary involved reading tons of books on spirituality. And during that time, I was always looking for the one thing, the "key," that could best help people to become saints—and I believe I found it. The key to becoming a saint is to focus on making all our actions aim



***The 'One Thing' Is Three* is written for busy people who don't have time to delve deeply into theology. It's ideal for individuals and groups during the Year of Faith. [Click here to order.](#)**

at one goal: pleasing God, consoling the Heart of Jesus, and quenching His thirst for love and for souls. That's what *Consoling* was all about, namely, helping people discover this secret of the saints and a key to great sanctity.

This book is a bit different. While *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* gave a spirituality, the present work gives a theology. In other words, while *Consoling* aimed to help us become saints, this book aims to make us wise. Of course, sanctity and wisdom go together. (Saints often make the best theologians.) And this is so because of the connection between knowledge and love: The more we know God, the more we can love Him. Therefore, this book serves as a kind of complement to *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*. It provides a big-picture vision of the theology that undergirds spirituality, and it helps us come to know and love God more deeply.

One other similarity to *Consoling*: The bold claim. In *Consoling*, I wrote that in some sense, it's easier than ever before to grow in holiness and that the book aimed to help us become "saints, great saints, and quickly." I felt confident to make such a bold claim because of the time we're living in. According to St. Faustina and Blessed John Paul II, ours is a "time of mercy," a time when God is offering us extraordinary grace and mercy.

Well, because we're living in such an extraordinary time, I believe that God not only gives us a key to great sanctity but also a key to great wisdom. We find this key to wisdom in the theo-

logical term "*communio*," meaning "communion." This Latin word may be unfamiliar, but don't be afraid. The concept is simple and yet amazingly powerful for the way it helps us grasp some of the deepest mysteries of our faith.

The super-concept of *communio*

Wait a minute. Didn't I say that the key to our faith, the "one thing," is the Trinity? Yes, I did. And it's from the Trinity that we get the concept of *communio*, because this idea has its origin in the communion of love of the Most Holy Trinity. What's more, this idea of *communio* (communion) explains everything.

It's also a special gift for our time. *Communio* helps us to interpret and understand our faith in a wonderfully new way. Of course, it's not something new in the sense that the Church has never heard of it. On the contrary, it's a concept that's been there from the very beginning — and I do mean *the beginning*: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). Indeed, it comes from the Trinitarian revelation of God in Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh. This ancient idea shines a powerful new light in our day, sparking renewal and spurring on a new evangelization.

The communion of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit provides the background and meaning to everything we will now cover. To bring us into this communion is the deepest desire in the Heart of Jesus, and it explains *everything*. MH

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"We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope." — Pope Benedict XVI



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On Aug. 17, the National Shrine will host the Ninth Annual *Encuentro Latino*, which celebrates Hispanic culture and faith. It is expected to draw more than 5,000 pilgrims, and all activities will be in Spanish.

Come on pilgrimage this summer to the National Shrine

by Dan Valenti

Spring is a good time to plan a summer pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass. Novenas, ethnic days, Marian Week, and *Encuentro Latino* dominate the summer schedule of the National Shrine, says Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, rector.

“Novenas are a powerful way to ask for Jesus’, Mary’s, or a saint’s intercession for a specific intention,” says Fr. Ken. “Over the nine days, the faithful recite prayers that have the ecclesiastical sanction of the Church. The faithful everywhere can participate in novenas, but to spend time praying a novena here at the Shrine can be incredibly rewarding.”

Novenas include the Alliance of Two Hearts (Sacred and Immaculate Hearts) beginning on May 29; Father’s Day, starting on June 7; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, beginning on July 7; and a triduum (three days), that of the Assumption, Aug. 13-15. There is also the octave of Marian Week (eight days), which begins on Aug. 15 (solemnity of the Assumption) and ends on Aug. 22 (feast of the Queenship of Mary). The National Shrine will host as well the ninth annual celebration of Hispanic culture and faith, *Encuentro Latino*, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 17.

If you can’t participate in person in a novena at the National Shrine and want your special intentions remembered, contact the Association of Marian Helpers by calling 1-800-462-7426 or visiting thedivinemercy.org/novenas.

Along with giving pilgrims the opportunity to participate in novenas and special events, the Shrine has a daily schedule that provides Holy Mass, time for confession, a Holy Hour,

the Rosary for Life, and the Divine Mercy devotions at 3 p.m., the Hour of Great Mercy.

Pilgrims can also enjoy the scenic beauty of Eden Hill in the Berkshires and pray at other sacred sites on the Hill after receiving the Sacraments at the National Shrine. Sites include: the Hill’s newest addition, the life-size Stations of the Cross; Blessed John Paul II Plaza; the Lourdes Grotto and the Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine; the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine and the Shrine of the Holy Innocents; St. Peregrine’s Knoll; and Our Lady of Mercy Candle Shrine.

In planning your summer pilgrimage, if you are interested in staying on Eden Hill at the JP II House, you can inquire about its availability by calling (413) 298-3931, ext. 117, or e-mailing shrine@thedivinemercy.org.

Divine Mercy Sunday and then the start of the pilgrimage season in late spring bring thousands of Shrine visitors, so there is a constant need for volunteers to assist the Marians and their staff. Volunteering one’s time, talent, and treasure can be immensely rewarding.

“The most rewarding part of volunteering for me is to see all the people coming [to Eden Hill] from all parts of the United States and Canada,” says Harvey Dutil, who coordinates parking on the Hill during Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend, supervising a crew of about 30 volunteers. “They come to receive and participate in Divine Mercy. I also love to see them after the services are over as they make their way home. It makes the long day worth it.”

To volunteer, contact Peter Markavage by calling (413) 298-1114 or e-mailing volunteers@thedivinemercy.org.

MH

Bishop Holley is the principal celebrant this year

by Dan Valenti

A good friend of the Marian Fathers, the Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., will be the principal celebrant at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., for the Solemn Liturgy at 1 p.m. on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, announced Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC.

Over the years, Bishop Holley has ordained a number of Marian seminarians in Washington, D.C., to the transitional diaconate. Last year at the National Shrine, he ordained Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC, to the priesthood.

Both the Sunday liturgy and the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, will be celebrated on Eden Hill at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

On Saturday morning, the Marian Fathers will host their annual Mercy Weekend Conference. This year's theme is "Divine Mercy and the New Evangelization." Speakers include Marian Vocation Director Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and the Marians' staffer dedicated to parish evangelization, Kelly Wahlquist.

The conference will run from 10 a.m. to



The Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., will be the principal celebrant at Divine Mercy Sunday. Bishop Holley ordained Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC.

Mercy Gift Shop, and more.

"One highlight of the weekend will be the Divine Mercy Prayer Cross," says Fr. Ken. "This is a cross made up of thousands of pieces of wood, with each one bearing a Marian Helper's prayer intention for Divine Mercy Sunday." The cross will be displayed at the outdoor shrine.

As always, pilgrims are advised to prepare for any weather, from sunny and warm to snowy and cold. The Sunday Mass will be broadcast worldwide on EWTN, the global Catholic cable network.

About 600 volunteers are needed for the weekend. Those interested in volunteering for any part of the weekend can call (413) 298-1114 or e-mail volunteers@marian.org. **MH**

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

weekend

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. — Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration Tent. At 2:45, there will be a procession to the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

10 a.m. to noon — Divine Mercy Conference: "Divine Mercy and the New Evangelization." Speakers will include Marian Vocation Director Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and the Marians' staffer dedicated to parish evangelization, Kelly Wahlquist.

3 p.m. — Solemn Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

4 p.m. — Vigil Mass, Mother of Mercy Shrine.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. — Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration Tent.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Presentations on spiritual topics, recitation of the Rosary featuring members of the Thirteenth of the Month Club, Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

1 p.m. — Solemn Liturgy will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

3 p.m. — Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet; Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; blessing of religious articles and water, Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

On Saturday and Sunday, confessions will be heard from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., tents for Enrollments and Masses will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the food court will serve starting at 9 a.m. Gift shop tents will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. On both days, the votive candle tent will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., while Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine will be open all day.

For up-to-date information, visit thedivinemercy.org/shrine, call (413) 298-1118, or e-mail pilgrims@marian.org.



Rector Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, assists seminarian Br. Matthew Holladay, MIC, with his studies. Father Mark says that after the men in formation complete the novitiate, “they begin to focus on their intellectual and pastoral development as seminarians.” This includes taking classes in subjects like philosophy and theology.

THE TEST OF COMMUNITY LIFE

How Marian novices and seminarians are perfected in love.

by Dan Valenti

All of us face crucibles, or severe tests, in life. For a teenager, it might be passing the road test for a driver’s license. For a college student, it might be taking final exams. For a novice or seminarian, the crucible is often adapting to the challenges of life in a religious community.

“Basically, you could call [religious] community life a crucible of being perfected in charity,” says Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, who serves the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception as house superior, novice master, and rector of their house of studies in Washington, D.C., where 19 men live, including nine seminarians and five novices. (Altogether, there are nearly 30 Marians in formation in the United States.)

“It fits with the nature of a vocation,” he says. “A vocation revolves around the understanding that God has created us for the sake of love. Further, His plan for each one of us involves becoming perfected in love. He thus calls us to a way of life where we will be able to best grow and mature in charity. Of course, this growth in maturity involves some sort of purification.”

To live a life in a religious community, then, one must have a vocation. “You join religious life in response to what you believe to be the call of

God in your life,” says Fr. Mark. “People don’t really enter religious life out of a natural desire to live with a bunch of men (or in the case of women, to live as religious sisters).

“You don’t join a religious community because you’re trying to find drinking buddies or because you want to hold hands and sing ‘Kumbayah.’ Nor do you sign up to run away from the outside world. You enter because you believe God has called you to a life consecrated to Him. You join because of Him and for Him.”

Marian community life

How do the Marians live this “crucible of charity” at the Washington house of studies, and what makes their community life distinctively Marian?

At 6:40 a.m., everyone gathers for the Liturgy of the Hours, meditation, and then Holy Mass, according to Fr. Mark. During these times, other prayers are recited that are specific to the Marian Congregation.

After breakfast, the seminarians pursue their academic classes in subjects like theology and philosophy at the nearby Dominican House of Studies. Meanwhile, the novices stay at the Marians’ house and attend classes

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given by Fr. Mark. These classes introduce them to the Marian charism and the history of the Congregation. The novices then have chores at the house in the afternoon, including cleaning the bathrooms.

Father Mark calls the year of novitiate “a spiritual boot camp” that prepares the novices for professing their first vows and advancing to seminary studies.

At 5:15 p.m., an optional communal Rosary is prayed in the chapel. Then, everyone gathers at 5:40 for the Church’s Evening Prayer, followed by dinner.

Evenings, some afternoons, and weekends include time for recreation, individual study, and pastoral ministry. For instance, recreation might range from playing outdoor sports, to playing a game of darts, or just watching a movie, says Fr. Mark. As an example of pastoral ministry, Fr. Mark points out how some of the seminarians assist with the RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) in local parishes.

A life of challenges

A balanced approach to formation helps the men face challenges of community life. “Pope John Paul II taught that formation should focus on four areas: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral,” says Fr. Mark.

The biggest challenge in community life, says seminarian Br. Gabriel, is “overcoming myself. Many times, I find myself in a situa-



The Marian seminarians join together to praise God in song during some down time. “As for praising the Lord, I’m happy that I can offer back to God a gift he has given me, and I’m happy that it brings joy to others as well,” says seminarian Br. Gabriel, shown with his guitar.

tion, and I’m thinking: ‘Here’s how I would like it to be.’ Then, I realize that’s exactly what I am learning and trying to put into practice. ‘No, Gabe, your way is not always correct.’ I’m learning how not to be selfish.

“You really can’t live for yourself. You live for God and for your brothers. You’re always being pushed out of your personal comfort zone to face your brothers and to be present to them.”

Life in a religious community has some similarities to family life. We’re all trying to love each other but, like all families, people don’t always agree, can rub each other the wrong way, and make life difficult. Why?

“Because we are all different and have our own idiosyncrasies. We also have our own opinions that we aren’t afraid to share. But God uses all this to teach us how to make our love for God, self, and neighbor more pure.”

Continued on page 28

Help pave the way for God’s mercy

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

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Graces Received

'My 4-month-old great niece had cancer'

'There was no more tumor'

My great niece Calli was healed of a rare cancerous tumor, thanks to the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. Calli is now smiling, happy, and growing.

Calli was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer when she was 4 months old. She was taken to Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa. The doctors operated immediately and told the parents that the tumor was large and that they couldn't get all of it. They also told them that Calli had lost a lot of blood.

Further, the doctors explained that the baby would need at least three more surgeries and that she would be in the hospital for approximately a month.

It was at this time that I began asking Blessed Stanislaus to intercede for Calli.

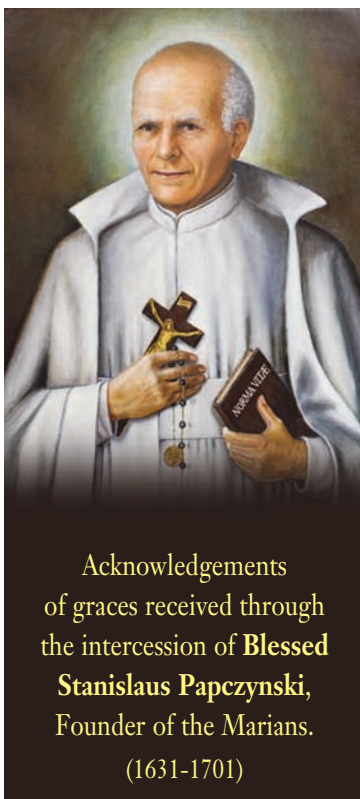
About two days later, the doctors operated on Calli for a second time. They told the parents that they hoped to get about 98 percent of the tumor and to try to control the bleeding.

After the surgery, one of the doctors told the parents that "the tumor peeled away in his hands." All three doctors were stunned. The primary surgeon told them, "This is clearly from God." And there was no excess bleeding. There was no more tumor, and no more surgeries were needed.

— LR, Pittsburgh, Pa.

'My daughter passed her tests'

My daughter, who was diagnosed with a very low IQ when she was in kindergarten, passed her Regents Examinations and will receive a general



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

diploma in June 2013 when she graduates from high school. I thank Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski for this grace obtained through his intercession.

I had been turning to Blessed Stanislaus since her junior year of high school. I was told that she probably would never pass any of her Regents — statewide standardized examinations in core high school subjects. I was devastated because I knew ever since she was 6 years old, she wanted to become a nurse, and to do that she would have to graduate with a general diploma. Thanks to Blessed Stanislaus, she can pursue her dream.

— ML, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

'My son got a new job'

I have been reading *Marian Helper* magazine, and I noticed the many letters of thanksgiving for the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. So when my son lost his job as a graphic designer, I started asking Blessed Stanislaus to pray. Soon, my son got a new job, and he now has a good future.

— CA, Tucson, Ariz.

For a Blessed Stanislaus prayercard (B18-CPPC), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. NOTE TO THE READER: On Nov. 16, 2012, the diocesan process for the canonization of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski began. (See page 10 for story.) It involves an investigation into a presumed miracle through his intercession. No details can be published yet. The Marians have entrusted the success of the canonization process to Mary Immaculate and ask Marian Helpers to join in prayer. In the next issue, we will focus on graces received through the intercession of Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, Renovator of the Marians.

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Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

When Dr. Paul Davin visited Eden Hill in Stockbridge Mass., he had a surprise waiting for him.

“While being given a tour of the different memorials, I was surprised to find that Joan had donated a plaque for our immediate family at the Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine and a plaque at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents for our friends who had lost a child in childbirth. I didn’t even know she had done that,” Paul said. “The trip was a very emotional one, but I was reminded of Joan and her extraordinary ability to love and to put others first.”

Paul was visiting the Marians to see the memorial he had donated in honor of his late wife. He had her name engraved on a marble frieze at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. He chose that site because of his wife’s devotion to Our Lady and Divine Mercy.

Joan had been plagued by serious health problems throughout her life and eventually succumbed to cancer, but she had always been a woman of faith. She developed a deep devotion to Our Lady in the 1990s. Around that same time, she also formed a strong devotion to the Divine Mercy after reading the *Diary of St. Faustina*. Joan went on to introduce the Divine Mercy devotions to her parish. She added her name to the Protectors of the Sanctity of Life plaque in the Shrine of the Holy Innocents as well.

“She had been the driving force behind our supporting the Marian Fathers and the seminarians,” Paul said. “So after she passed away, we created a memorial in marble at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine from the donations received after her funeral. The rest we contributed to the Marian seminarian fund

because supporting the seminarians was one of her passions. I wanted to continue to support the Marians after Joan died.”

Even though it was an emotional time for Paul, he found solace during his visit.

“Father Bob Vennetti [MIC] was assisting with the tour, and we realized that he had



MITCHELL KRUSZYNA

This plaque at the Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine was one of the surprises awaiting Paul during his visit to Eden Hill.

been a seminarian when we first started giving to the seminarian fund. Then, Fr. Bob said, ‘Thank you for putting me through school.’ That was a very nice thing to hear,” Paul said.

Paul also said that he was struck by the beauty of the new Stations of the Cross on Eden Hill.

“They are just gorgeous,” he said.

Like Paul and Joan, benefactors can have a name etched on a bronze plaque, on a stained-glass window, or engraved in granite or marble at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

All benefactors and those they honor are remembered daily at Holy Mass and the Perpetual Novena to the Divine Mercy at the National Shrine. To learn more about these and other special opportunities, please contact Father Joseph’s Assistants for Special Gifts at 1-800-671-2020 or visit online at MemorialsOnEdenHill.org.

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Children, holy innocents, have gone to heaven

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

Shrine of the Holy Innocents

To memorialize a child, visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org/sohi or call 1-800-671-2020.

To Our TWO ANGELS
Never Forgotten
Forever LOVED



“Praying in front of abortion clinics is important because we give a prayerful witness against the greatest holocaust in human history,” says Fr. Mark Baron, MIC. “It is a horrible, helpless, and devastating feeling standing out there, knowing what takes place inside those walls. We come to keep the reality of abortion before us.”

SEMINARIANS

Continued from page 25

Father Mark says because community life puts you with different personalities, things can get stressful. “You’re in an environment where things aren’t always going to go your way, and people aren’t always going to like you or what you have to say. This is why it is a crucible. But you just try to look at it from God’s perspective. He puts us in a situation where we can work on perfecting our ability to relate to others in charity.”

The joyous rewards

It goes without saying that life in a religious community like the Marianists also has its joyous rewards, as hard earned as they may be.

For Br. Gabriel, his “biggest reward comes when I know I have done a job and been faithful to Jesus. That means I have answered His call to ‘do unto the least of these as you would do to Me.’”

“When I interact with one of my brothers, I try to realize, ‘That was Jesus who approached me,’ no matter what I might have been feeling at the moment.”

For Fr. Mark, the most rewarding part of his work in formation “is the satisfaction of seeing the Lord’s work in the lives of these men by seeing them grow into the men of God that God is calling them to be.”

Who can think of a joy to top that?
To support Br. Gabriel and the other Marian seminarians in their vocation, please click here.

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Outstanding Helpers

by Ellen Miller

'A great way to bring people to God's mercy'

It might have been the best wrong turn Polly ever made. "I had spent the weekend at a nearby resort," she recalls. "I don't know why, but I took a different route to go home. When I realized that I was completely lost, I turned into the next driveway, and there was the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy]."

Looking back, Polly believes that God brought her here, and she fervently wants others to discover the National Shrine and the mercy God desires to pour out on every soul.

"What a wonderful treasure to have right here in our midst," she says. "People make pilgrimages to Lourdes and the Holy Land, but we have this beautiful Shrine so close by."

While Polly admires the beauty of the grounds and the Shrine, during one of her early visits, she noticed that the restrooms in the Shrine needed renovation. She told a Marian, "Pilgrims come to this beautiful Shrine, but then they see these out-of-date restrooms. Something has to be done."

Since she was willing to provide the funds, planning began for renovating the restrooms.

Unfortunately, because of the location of the restrooms and other issues with the building, it took longer than expected to secure the building permit. However, Polly learned there were other projects on the drawing board for the Shrine, so she offered to help.

Polly enthusiastically provided gifts for new front steps for the Shrine and the plaza area in front of the Shrine, leading to the new statue of St. Faustina. Then, when she heard that we had raised about one-half of the funds we needed for the Blessed John Paul II Plaza, she made a gift so the Marians could build it without delay.

In explaining her generous giving, Polly says, "I love and respect the Marian Fathers. I get up in the morning, and I am so thankful for



Polly says she has found more time to grow spiritually since the death of her husband of 44 years (shown here). "I always thought that Joe would outlive me. After he passed away, I asked God, 'Why him and not me? He was never sick. There has to be a reason.'"

the work they do."

She is drawn to the spirituality of the Marians and their devotion to Divine Mercy, the Blessed Mother, and praying for the Holy Souls. When she is at home, she turns on EWTN and prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet at the three o'clock hour with the Marians from the National Shrine.

So, when Polly learned the Marians were looking into how they could produce quality Divine Mercy

images on canvas at a reasonable cost so that every home can afford one, she asked, "What do you need to get started?"

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers, then described to Polly the equipment and initial investment he needed, and she offered to fund it. (See the cover story on page 12.)

Polly agrees with Fr. Michael in saying, "This [initiative] is really going to affect people. Divine Mercy is so important. This is a great way to bring people to God's mercy."

In arranging her special gifts, Polly chose to give stock rather than cash. "It's relatively easy, and since I am making the gift to charity, I don't have to pay capital gains tax on it," she says. "The charity receives more, since it gets the entire value of the stock."

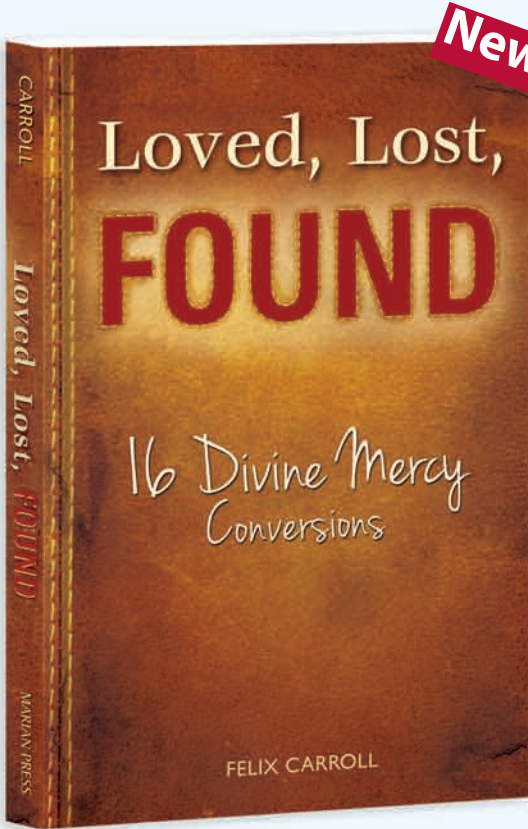
If you feel called to help the Marian Fathers spread the message of Divine Mercy, or if you would like to discuss making a special gift, perhaps of stock, please contact me.



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

New and recent Marian Press titles



B18-LLF16 • \$14.95

Loved, Lost, Found: 16 Divine Mercy Conversions

by Felix Carroll

Authored by the Marians' award-winning writer Felix Carroll, *Loved, Lost, Found* is a collection of moving stories of everyday people who discover God's extraordinary mercy. They include a former abortionist, a blind man, an unfaithful husband, a former cult member, a rape victim, a prisoner, a former "workaholic," and a survivor of the "Miracle on the Hudson" plane crash, among others.

The book begins with a story about Maureen Digan, whose miraculous healing in 1981 led to the beatification of Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, now St. Faustina. This nun's revelations in the 1930s — known today as the message of Divine Mercy — play a major role in each one of the conversion stories in this collection. Each of these people knows well the truth of Jesus' words to St. Faustina, "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy." (*Diary*, 723).

See review on page 6.



B18-ONE • \$14.95

The 'One Thing' Is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything

by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

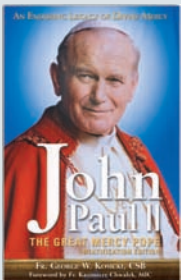
With humor and ease, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, deftly unlocks the "one thing," the key to the Church's wisdom, and the greatest mystery of the Catholic faith: the Most Holy Trinity. Far from being an academic read, *The 'One Thing' Is Three* makes deep theology accessible to everyday Catholics. Further, it makes even what's familiar or forgotten new, exciting, and relevant. An ideal resource for the Year of Faith. This is the best example I have ever seen of "the new evangelization" in the form of a book for contemporary Catholics. It covers just about everything, yet slowly and clearly. If you wonder what God is doing in the Church today to convert and convince the modern world, read this book.

— Peter Kreeft, Ph.D, author of *Catholic Christianity*

See excerpt on page 20.

John Paul II: The Great Mercy Pope An Enduring Legacy of Divine Mercy

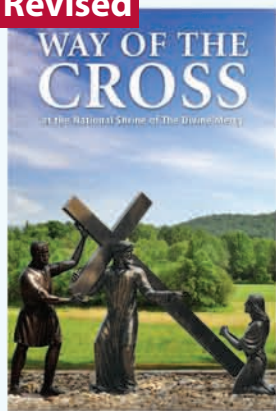
As we mark this special year for St. Faustina in preparing for the 75th Anniversary of her death this fall, this book on Pope John Paul II's legacy of Divine Mercy makes for ideal reading. It chronicles, in part, the profound influence of St. Faustina on John Paul, especially as he grappled with the evils of the 20th century. The message St. Faustina brought to our time helped John Paul II realize that Divine Mercy places a limit on evil in our world. See the article on page 18 that is adapted in part from this book. B18-GMP3 • \$14.95



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

Prepare for Lent and Divine Mercy Sunday

Revised



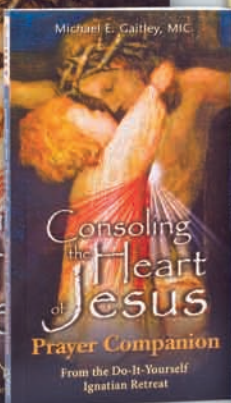
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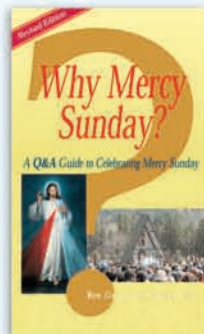
Start the Lenten season with books by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC: *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* and the *Consoling the Heart of Jesus Prayer Companion*. These books are available as a set for a limited time with our popular daily Lenten devotional, *Pausing to Pray: Lenten Meditations for Busy People*. *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* is now available as a group retreat. Visit AllHeartsAfire.org for more information.



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Why Mercy Sunday?

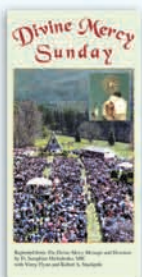
This pocket-sized booklet clearly and concisely addresses the most common questions about why Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.
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Divine Mercy Pamphlets

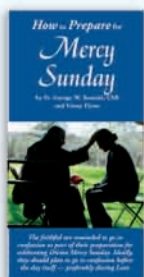
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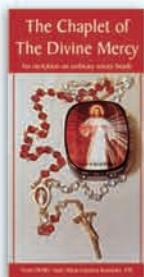
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Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper

'Jesus, I trust in You'

The first time I remember seeing a holy card with the Divine Mercy image on it, I thought the picture looked strange. I surmised that the rays probably represented the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus, but why were they coming from His Heart after He had risen from the dead?

It was praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and learning about the devotion that helped me to appreciate the image. We continue to offer the Body

and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ to the Father in the Eucharist, and the chaplet is another way of reminding ourselves of this

"Praying the chaplet before the image has greatly increased my trust in Jesus."

reality. It is a prayer that is an "extension" of the Eucharist.

I remember shortly after I started praying the chaplet, I found that praying it before the Divine Mercy image was ideal. Jesus wants us to venerate the image, and when we recite the prayers of the chaplet, we are asking for His rays of mercy to continue to shower down on the world.

Although I didn't think about it at first, I know that praying the chaplet before the image has greatly increased my trust in Jesus. The image, of course, includes the words, "Jesus, I trust in You." As I began to pray these words, my pessimism lessened, and I didn't worry as much about the future. Such an attitude of trust was important for me in the novitiate and seminary, which can have unexpected turns and challenges.

Now, as I work with our men in formation, I face new challenges that lead me to say all the more, "Jesus, I trust in You."



Fr. John
Marian



Mary
Marian Helper

I have grown in my trust in Jesus by venerating the image of Divine Mercy daily as well as by learning the message of Divine Mercy more deeply through belonging to a cenacle prayer group. Whenever I find myself worrying about anything, I go to the image and pray, "Jesus I trust in

You." I gaze upon Jesus for a while, tell Him my concern, and end again by praying, "Jesus, I Trust in You." I then leave it with Him as I do trust in Him.

The most recent example that I would like to share is the loss of my brother Russell, who passed away of cancer on the Third Sunday of Advent in 2012.

"Whenever I find myself worrying . . . , I go to the image and pray, 'Jesus, I trust in You.'"

We lived 1,400 miles apart. So, on Saturday, Dec. 15, I decided to offer my Holy Hour for him by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and venerating the image. Our Adoration chapel has a first-class relic of St. Faustina with a holy card. I recited the prayer on the card and asked St. Faustina to go to Russell's bedside. I trusted in Jesus over this matter. Russell passed away the next day.

Two days later at our cenacle, we read this passage from St. Faustina's *Diary*: "My union with the dying is still as close as ever. Oh, how incomprehensible is God's mercy that the Lord allows me, by my unworthy prayer, to come to the aid of the dying. I try to be at the side of every dying person whenever I can. Have confidence in God, for He is good and inconceivable. His mercy surpasses our understanding" (880).

What a blessed consolation that was for me.

Fr. John Larson, MIC, is superior and postulant director at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio. He was ordained a priest in 2006.

Mary Nowe belongs to Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. She facilitates the EADM cenacle that meets at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

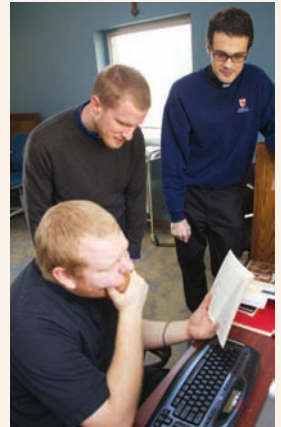
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'A true sense of camaraderie'

"Whether it is going to pray in front of Planned Parenthood, which can be a very powerful experience, or seeing my brothers laughing and relaxing away from our intense study, there is no doubt that there is a true sense of camaraderie present among the Marian seminarians. There are times when my chest swells with admiration as I watch them grow as men of prayer."

— A Marian seminarian



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



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

The next retreat will be on:
**March 29-31 and
April 19-21**

Write: **Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, Vocation Director**
Marians of the Immaculate Conception
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E-mail: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: **1-877-261-8806**
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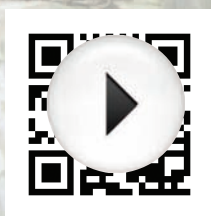
See the Marian Fathers' vocation video at marian.org/vocationvideo.

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— Ellen Miller, Fr. Joseph's
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Click on the video button to watch Ellen Miller explain the benefits of gift annuities or visit <http://youtu.be/4uJ7VHDf2Ac>.

