

YEAR OF MERCY

SPECIAL EDITION

# Marian Helper

Spring 2016 • \$2.25

*Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception*

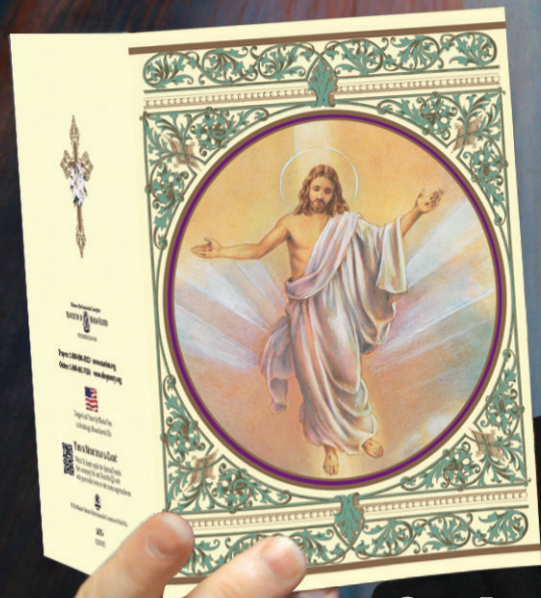
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HELP  
SAVE  
THE  
WORLD

JOIN US

MARCH 1



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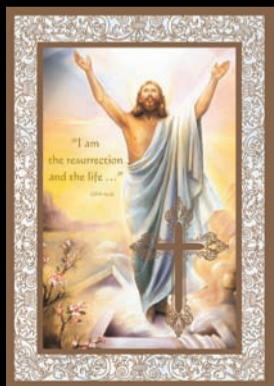
Fr. Joseph,  
MIC, explains  
enrollments.

# I encourage you to give the powerful gift of prayer.

On a recent mission trip, I happened to be with my host when she suddenly exclaimed, *"Oh, my goodness! Someone has enrolled my husband and me in your Association of Marian Helpers!"*

It made such an impression on me to see the impact of an enrollment on her and her husband. That's why I use enrollments and why I encourage you to give the powerful gift of prayer to someone you love. It will be appreciated more than you know.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC



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GOLD FOILED, EMBOSSED  
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Your offering helps support the [Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception](http://marian.org/b29/eg).

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# Let's save the world

Now is the time of mercy, and we've got a plan. Father Joseph, MIC, is inviting all Marian Helpers to make a consecration to Divine Mercy on what will probably be the greatest moment of mercy in our lifetimes.

## 8 Step this way for graces

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy begins, and a "gift of grace" is ours for the taking. The Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy opened our newly installed Holy Door. The Shrine has been named an official pilgrimage location for the year. All are welcome. Plus, Marian Helpers share how they are celebrating the Jubilee.

## 16 We've got winners!

The response was enormous to our "Works of Mercy Contest." After much deliberation, we chose the top three entries. They epitomize what it means to give glory to God through love of neighbor.

## 19 Go forth and (creatively) proclaim

Film, music, conferences, coffee, and more. The Word of God is getting out to the masses in fresh new ways. Check out our nine-page spread highlighting people and programs that serve as powerful examples of the New Evangelization at work in the world today.

### DEPARTMENTS

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

MARIAN HELPER is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation. MARIAN HELPER is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association. Printed in the USA with ecclesiastical approval. Copyright © 2016 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: [editorial@marian.org](mailto:editorial@marian.org) website: [marian.org](http://marian.org)

## WHO WE ARE



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

### National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

(413) 298-3931  
For pilgrimages:  
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[marian.org/shrine](http://marian.org/shrine)



### Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our lay ministries.  
[marian.org/ministries](http://marian.org/ministries)  
1-866-895-3236

### Evangelization Team

Invite the Marians to speak  
at your parish.  
(413) 298-1349  
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### Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs (HAPP)

[AllHeartsAfire.org](http://AllHeartsAfire.org)  
1-877-200-4277

### Intercessory Prayerline

Send us your prayer intentions.  
1-800-804-3823  
[marian.org/prayerline](http://marian.org/prayerline)

### Websites

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



## Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

## Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Established in 1945, the Association began as a small group of friends who believed in and supported the work of the Marians. Now some 1.5-million members strong, the Association is a spiritual benefit society that continues to prayerfully and financially support the priests and brothers of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.

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

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

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



You Tube



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

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US

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

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

### Arrange a special gift:

- using stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: [marian.org/plannedgiving](http://marian.org/plannedgiving)

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

### When making your will ...

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is:

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

# TWO FOR TWO



Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, updates us on the canonization process.



Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, talks about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy.

I have a special request. Please join us in praying for two intentions near and dear to the Marian Fathers. First, pray for the canonization cause of the founder of the Marian Fathers, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski. The second: Please pray for the success of our petition drive encouraging the Holy Father to grant St. Maria Faustina Kowalska the formal designation of Doctor of the Church.

“Doctor.” “Saint.” What’s in a title? I assure you we are not attempting to pad the already pious “resumes” of these two figures. Rather, our prayerful intentions cut to the very core of what compelled my fellow Marians and me to surrender our lives to serving Christ and His Church. Moreover, they underlie the apostolic endeavors of you, the laity, who have served as our co-workers since the founding of the Association of Marian Helpers in 1945.

So let me tell you where things stand, then let me tell you why all this matters.

As for the Faustina petition to the Holy Father, so far we’ve collected more than 30,000 names. If you haven’t done so already, please sign our petition at [TheDivineMercy.org/doctor](http://TheDivineMercy.org/doctor). ▶ **Print and share**

As for Blessed Stanislaus (the 17<sup>th</sup> century firebrand whom we fondly refer to as “Father Founder”), the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints approved the required miracle for his canonization. We now await the declaration of the Consistory of the Cardinals and the Holy Father’s confirmation, after which the date for the canonization would be set.

OK, so why are these matters so important?

As for St. Faustina, arguably no figure in modern times (save, perhaps, her chief champion, St. John Paul II) has achieved what she has to open the eyes of a sin-blinded world to the true nature of

God Incarnate and God the Father.

And, through the wild workings of Divine Providence, we, the Marian Fathers, became the custodians and primary propagators of Faustina’s

Divine Mercy revelations. That was a mere three years

after her death in 1938. In the midst of World War II, a Polish Marian priest was entrusted with the most consequential hand-off in history — the Divine Mercy message and devotion — that he then brought here to the United States. Faustina’s Diary, published here in Stockbridge, has since helped renew the Church.

So, back to “titles.” The Church has a mere 36 Doctors — saints whose holiness and writings have been declared exemplary of the truth, beauty, and splendor of the faith. We pray Faustina joins their ranks. Why? We know that when people encounter Christ through this message, conversions and reconversions occur. Through Faustina, Christ re-clarifies for modern times *who He is*: Mercy itself.

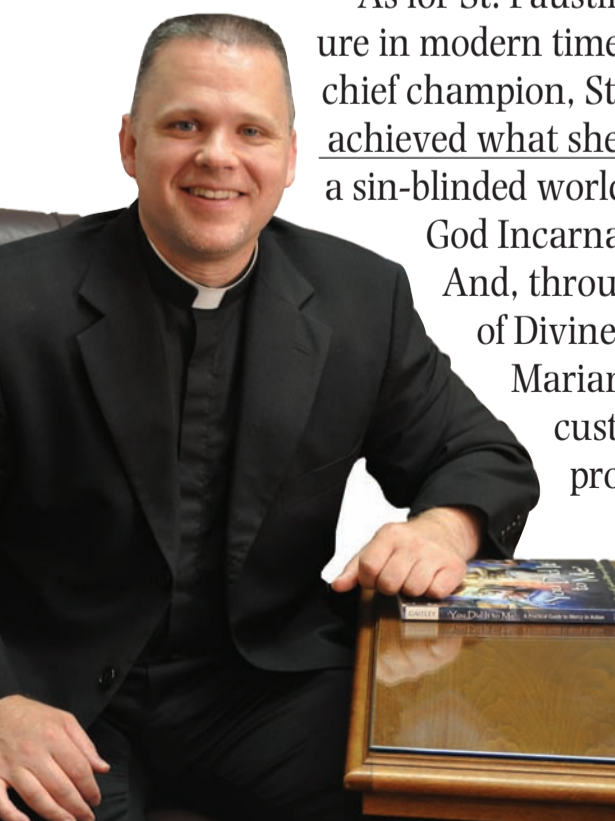
Now, to Blessed Stanislaus: Expect immoderate high-fiving around here if our founder’s canonization is approved. A bit of pride behind those high-fives? No doubt. But the heart of our joy would be in knowing that the message Blessed Stanislaus went out on a limb to proclaim would be magnified. Nearly 200 years before the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of the faith, Blessed Stanislaus made this mystery his mission. By the fact that Mary was preserved from original sin, she became the masterpiece of God’s mercy.

How awesome it would be if, in this Year of Mercy, the Marians — those “Divine Mercy guys” — saw our founder canonized and saw Faustina declared a Doctor of the Church! Talk about putting two and two together!

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Lord, hear our prayers.

*Fr. Joseph, MIC*

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





COURTESY OF TAMMY VO

# How she survived

**M**arian Helper Tammy Vo has a hair salon, three children, and one heck of a story to tell. A parishioner at Good Shepherd Church in Pittsburg, California, Tammy is one of the Vietnamese boat people, the wave of refugees who fled Vietnam in the wake of the Communist takeover in 1975. We spoke to her in 2015 at the regional North American Congress on Mercy in Oakland, California, for which she served as a volunteer.

**Growing up, most of your life was the Vietnam War. What year did you decide to leave Vietnam?**

Around 1978. I tried to escape about six times. One time, I got captured by the Viet Cong and was put in jail for 30 days, and so I couldn't go back to school anymore. At that moment, there was no reason for me to stay behind.

**How did you successfully escape?**

I left Vietnam in 1980 by boat with 85 other people.

The engine died, and we were floating in the ocean for about seven days. Pirates came and raped the women and stole from us. They left me alone because I was holding a child — not mine, but they thought it was. Then, finally, we got hit by the boat of one of the groups of pirates, and our boat was sunk.

**How did you survive?**

I found wood. I was holding it, and then a guy came and told me that that was his boat, it was his wood, so he just took it away. Then I happened to find another one that was smaller. But then, I was swimming around and saw one of the others who'd just got married, and he told me that his bride passed away. I didn't see him have anything to hold onto, so I gave him my wood. I was swimming, and I heard somebody tell me that if I didn't have anything to hold on, hold on to the [dead] body next to me. It kept me going.

## How many days were you in the water?

Sunset to sunrise. I never stopped praying the Hail Mary. That's what I always treasure, the Hail Mary. Then later on, when the sun rose, it was beautiful, but then the reality really kicked in for me because now I could see everything, and the ocean is scary. I was really panicking, and so I asked Mama Mary, I said, "I know that you love me, and if you still love me, have somebody come and pick me up. I don't think I can live any longer." A little bit later, I heard the boat come directly to me.

## You were rescued off the coast of Thailand.

Yes. They had to jump out and pick me up. As soon as I got up to their boat, they gave me a blanket and a little medication. I drank it. Fifteen minutes later, my body had warmed back up. They took me to their house, which was right next to a temple. They fed me and took care of me for about 19 days. Then I went out to the refugee camp. There I stayed for about six to eight months.

## How did you get from the refugee camp in Thailand to the United States?

My sisters that were here before me, they sponsored me. Two older sisters left Vietnam about a year before me, one in 1978, one in 1979. They made it all right. They live in Sacramento. Mom was still back in Vietnam. [She's since died.] Dad passed away.

## As a former refugee, what do you think of the current debates about our role in welcoming refugees?

This country has been known for helping out. I believe it's an amazing country. It's just our legacy. We have to help them, especially the civilians. It's not their fault. As Christians, we have to help everybody. They are our brothers and sisters. When I come here, I have to take care of this country. You have to lift others up. You have to help. I'm hoping that these people come in. This country is given to me by God. This country has given me a second life. So I owe this country.

## Why is it so important for Catholics to welcome strangers?

Mama Mary asked us to share the love for others, for Jesus, so that she can bring us closer to Jesus. Pope Francis also asked us to help the refugees out. It comes with the suffering and comes with the mercy. I don't think they're a "stranger" to me — because they are human beings. I just call them my brothers and sisters. Mother Mary asks us to help everybody.

## What does the Divine Mercy teach us about taking care of refugees and other strangers in need?

Divine Mercy is not "You're helping one day and not the next." It's a way of life. MH

— Chris Sparks

## IN BRIEF

We've been so busy this past year here at the Marian Helpers Center that it took **Joseph Carey** of Albany, New York, to remind us of a rather significant milestone. "Isn't this the 75-year anniversary of the Marians' work spreading Divine Mercy?" he asked in an email. Subtract 1941 from 2016, and what do you get? Yep: 75. Thanks for the reminder, Joseph! In 1941, hardly three years after the death of Sr. Faustina, the Divine Mercy message and devotion was brought to the United States from Poland by Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC. Since that time, the Marians and Marian Helpers here in the U.S. have helped make the message of Divine Mercy known the world over. Happy 75<sup>th</sup> to us all!

\*\*\*

Congratulations to **Deborah Slavin, RN**, a member of the Marians' Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. A nurse in the Emergency Department of Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, Deborah was recently recognized for her work educating staff about the spiritual needs of patients. With the hospital's support, Deborah created "spiritual tool boxes" placed throughout the Emergency Department. The boxes contain rosaries, scapulars, prayercards, and interfaith materials as well. She will host a hospital-wide conference in May, "and my plan is to have the rabbi, a minister, a Catholic priest, and an Islamic clergy member attend, speak about the needs of that patient population, and have a panel discussion."

\*\*\*

"I signed. My mother signed. My sister signed. My nephews and nieces signed. And if we had 400 more people in our family, I guarantee they all would sign as well." That's from **Beth Nicholas** of Pensacola, Florida, who wrote in to tell us of her efforts to support our petition drive to encourage the Holy See to name St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church. So far, we have received more than 30,000 signatures. "Both through her life on earth and her life in Heaven, St. Faustina has done so much to renew the Church today," Beth says. If you haven't done so already, please sign our petition at [TheDivineMercy.org/doctor](http://TheDivineMercy.org/doctor). ► Print and share

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

## FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b29](http://ShopMercy.org/b29) or call 1-800-462-7426.

As we enter Lent on Feb. 10 and approach Divine Mercy Sunday on April 3, consider sharing some of these great resources on the Divine Mercy and Mary with your friends, family, and parish communities.



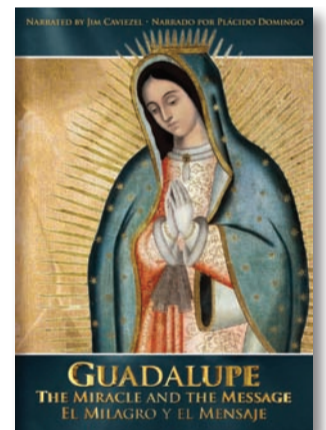
### DIVINE MERCY 101 KIT

One of our most popular offerings, this Divine Mercy 101 Kit comes with everything you need to get the most out of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Practical, easy-to-read pamphlets, booklets, and other resources explain Divine Mercy, equipping you to become a disciple of Divine Mercy, as well as an apostle of Divine Mercy to your family, parish, and wider community. \$29.95. **B29-DMKIT**



### GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE

**G**uadalupe: *The Miracle and the Message* traces the history of this transformative apparition of Our Lady from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Featuring interviews with leading theologians (such as Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC), historians, and experts on the scientific inquiries into the miraculous image, this gripping film explores both the inexplicable mysteries behind the image and the continued relevance of the Guadalupe apparition to the modern world. \$19.95. **B29-GMMDVD**

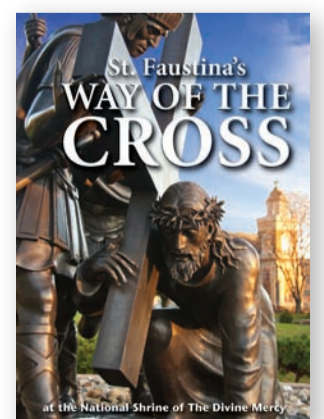


### DIVINE MERCY AND MARY

**T**he Holy Father opened the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on the Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Ever wonder what the connection is between Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary? In this 2013 *Franciscan University Presents* episode, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, talks to a distinguished panel about the message and devotion of Divine Mercy, Mary's role as foremost recipient of mercy and the one who dispenses God's mercy, and how mercy and Mary play a role in the New Evangelization. \$9.95. **B29-DMMDVD**

### ST. FAUSTINA'S WAY OF THE CROSS

**J**esus said to St. Faustina, "My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour [3 p.m., the Hour of Great Mercy], provided that your duties permit it" (*Diary*, 1572). What better time to answer that call from our Lord than in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, especially during Lent? Compiled by St. Faustina's religious community in Poland, *St. Faustina's Way of the Cross* combines the scriptural Stations of the Cross with passages on the Passion from St. Faustina's *Diary*. \$14.95. **B29-SOTCDVD**





# IT'S EXTRAORDINARY!

**T**he Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 is the patronal feast day of our religious congregation — and this past year, it also marked Pope Francis' launch of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. I was there!

The skies were overcast, but this didn't stop more than 50,000 people from coming to St. Peter's Square for the Mass and the ceremony of the opening of the Holy Door. Security was extremely tight because there had been threats. Somewhere in the range of 3,000-4,000 soldiers, police, and guards were on hand to ensure that all would be able to safely attend the Mass and open their hearts to the God of mercy. The need for such tight security reminded us of the dire need for mercy in our world, which is so torn by violence.

In his homily, Pope Francis emphasized the primacy of God's grace, which is far greater than our sins. He stated that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception expresses the greatness of God's saving love. He then spoke about the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as a gift of grace. "To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. It is He who seeks us! It is He who comes to encounter us! This will be a year in which *we grow ever more convinced of God's mercy*. ... Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience the *joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things*." As confident recipients of God's mercy and grace, we are then called to go out and share it with others.

The launch of the Jubilee Year coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican



Pope Francis pushes open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, formally launching the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Council. Pope Francis recalled the words of Blessed Pope Paul VI — that the spirit that had emerged from the Council was that of the Good Samaritan. Indeed, the Church is called to go wherever people are found to bring them the joy of the Gospel and God's mercy and forgiveness. "May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan." This called to mind the logo of the Jubilee Year, which hung over the Square. The logo depicts Jesus carrying a lost soul on His shoulders to demonstrate His love for all who are broken.

After the Mass, Pope Francis came before St. Peter's Holy Door, which is normally opened only every 25 years. He greeted and embraced Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in a touching moment. His Holiness then prayed, asking that this would be a year of grace for the Church. He stated that Jesus Himself is the door through which we enter to eternal life. He then pushed the door open, entered the Basilica, bowed his head and prayed silently for a few minutes. The silence was powerful. He was interceding for mankind, so in need of God's mercy. He was then followed into the Basilica by all in attendance, many kissing the doorframe or genuflecting as they passed through. Before the main altar, the Pope prayed a concluding prayer and gave his blessing.

It was a memorable opening to an extraordinary year. Let's open our hearts to all of the graces that God has prepared for us!



# ▶ OPEN WIDE THE DOORS OF MERCY

MARK FANDERS

The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, consecrates the Holy Door at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Dec. 8, the launch of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

## HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY?

### Randy Butler

Huntington, Massachusetts

I'm going to Mass more. I'm asking God to bless the world, particularly those who have fallen away from their faith and our enemies. That's so hard to do because there is so much evil in the world. But at the same time, Christ's arms are open wide, saying "Come to Me," so that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to come to Him.



### Mateusz Stasiak

New York City

We are doing everything we can to bring up our children in the faith. On holidays, we are visiting shrines and other holy places. This summer, we are going to Krakow, Poland, to visit where St. Faustina lived. This is a year to be reminded that God chooses the humble, like St. Faustina, to do extraordinary work.



By Felix Carroll

**A** gift of grace is ours for the taking. Step this way. Pope Francis inaugurated the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on Dec. 8, urging the faithful to come to know the face of God's mercy — Jesus Christ — and to show that face of mercy to the world.

“Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures,” Pope Francis said in his homily for the Jubilee's opening Mass, just before opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. “But the promised triumph of Christ's love enfolds everything in the Father's mercy.”

Only hours later, the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, opened a newly installed Holy Door of their own at the inside entrance to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Indeed, to stress a central theme of his pontificate — that the world is in critical condition and that the Church is duty-bound to strike down all barriers to God's grace — Pope Francis instructed dioceses around the world to open their own Holy Doors at specific pilgrimage locations. This is a first in the ancient tradition of Jubilee Years — that Holy Doors be established outside of Rome's four Major Basilicas.

The Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, the bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, selected the Shrine in Stockbridge to be among the diocese's official Jubilee Year destinations.

A Holy Door is meant to symbolically illustrate an “extraordinary pathway” toward reconciliation during the time of Jubilee, Pope Francis said. Pilgrims who

pass through a Holy Door — which is only opened during Jubilee Years — can receive a plenary indulgence, according to the usual conditions.

“To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them,” the Holy Father said in his homily. “This will be a year in which we grow ever more convinced of God's mercy.”

# THE JUBILEE YEAR BEGINS

## ‘Triple joy’

In the words of the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior, the Jubilee Year serves as a “triple joy” for the Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers.

Triple joy, because the Jubilee underscores three central aspects of the Marians' evangelization efforts dating back to the 1940s, when together, and under the mantle of Mary Immaculate, the Marians and Helpers began spreading the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska to the world from here in Stockbridge.

**Joy number 1:** The Dec. 8 inauguration of the Jubilee Year coincided with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of the Marians who have been spreading devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception since the Congregation's founding in 1673. By beginning the Jubilee on this date, Pope Francis is urging the faithful to turn to Mary for her intercession and to be strengthened by her witness of trust and humility.

## Margaret Vorck

Monterey, Massachusetts

Anyone who doesn't like me, I'm being extra good to them and loving them into Christ — just loving them. That's what we're called to do: to pray for each other. I am doubling up my prayers for everyone who has disappointed me and everyone whom I've disappointed. I also consider this a year of thanksgiving to God for His love for me.



## Sister Regina Mulenga

Holyoke, Massachusetts

My community, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi, are praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet everyday and helping people — giving food away to the poor. We are intensifying our prayers for the conversion of the world and for the holiness of priests, because when we have holy priests, they will lead people to God.



**Joy number 2:** In calling for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has singled out St. Faustina herself and the urgent message Christ gave to the world through her.

In his papal bull announcing the Jubilee Year, *Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy)*, Pope Francis explained, “Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy.” His call harkens back to Christ’s words to St. Faustina, which she recorded in her *Diary*: “Before the Day of Justice I am sending the Day of Mercy” (1588).

**Joy number 3:** That the Shrine itself was chosen as an official Jubilee Year pilgrimage destination reaffirmed its central role as a place of healing and renewal, where no one is turned away. Indeed, etched into its confessional doors are the following words of Jesus to St. Faustina: “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy” (*Diary*, 723).

In a typical year, the National Shrine welcomes at least 66,000 pilgrims. The Marians expect those numbers to significantly increase this year.

“Please come,” says Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC. “Together, let’s celebrate God’s mercy. Let’s inspire one another to serve those in the world who are suffering. Let’s experience the joy of having Christ in our hearts.”

## Urgent times, urgent measures

Just after 10 a.m. on Dec. 8, Marian priests and brothers in Stockbridge led more than 200 Marian Helpers in the first procession through the Shrine’s newly conse-

crated Holy Door.

“What an historic moment,” Fr. Kaz said to the crowd. Indeed, in more ways than one.

While there have been 26 *ordinary* Jubilee Years in recorded Church history, the Jubilee Year of Mercy marks only the third *extraordinary* Jubilee Year in more than 80 years. The difference is that ordinary Jubilees are celebrated once every 25 years. Extraordinary Jubilees are called only for special occasions.

“The Holy Father says these are urgent times, difficult times,” Fr. Kaz said. “In a prophetic voice, he says the world needs mercy today more than ever.”

To those assembled, Fr. Kaz reiterated what the Holy Father is asking of each of us this Jubilee Year. We are to meditate on Sacred Scripture. We are to perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in order “that we would not leave anyone behind,” Fr. Kaz said. “There are so many people today who need His mercy,” including the souls in Purgatory, he said.

We are to “live the sacramental life to the fullest,” Fr. Kaz said. “This is a year that we are to be reconciled — to each other and to the Father.”

Father Kaz concluded, “May this Year of Mercy be a year in which we will measure our future life. May it be the year in which we say, ‘The good Lord has transformed me. He made me truly holy. He made me truly a child of God. He made me a missionary and lover of mercy.’”

The Jubilee Year will close Nov. 20, the Solemnity of Christ the King. MH

**JUBILEE HOMEPAGE**  
Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/Jubilee](http://TheDivineMercy.org/Jubilee)  
to learn more about the  
Jubilee Year, including the  
plenary indulgences available  
to the faithful.

## Hildi Nolan

Brattleboro, Vermont

This year, there’s a line drawn in the sand between the forces of good and evil. It’s a year of performing works of mercy, particularly giving out Divine Mercy Images. The Lord has attached so many graces to venerating the image. I want to make those graces more available to people. Also, I’m stepping up my prayers, especially for those suffering in the Middle East.



## Richard Lis

Housatonic, Massachusetts

I am going to Confession more frequently and reading Scripture more frequently. I’m determined to grow, spiritually. I want to be on that road to Heaven. It’s got a lot of twists and turns, I know — a lot of potholes blocking the way. That’s where Confession comes in. It gets you out of the potholes.



# Get ready for Divine Mercy Sunday



Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/celebrate](http://TheDivineMercy.org/celebrate)  
for all you'll need  
to celebrate the feast day.

*"I consider these conferences the highlight of my spiritual life, and I look forward to attending each year."*

— Ann Walsh of Livingston, New Jersey

## Join us for the 11th Annual **Divine Mercy Conference** in this **Jubilee Year of Mercy!**

April 16, 2016

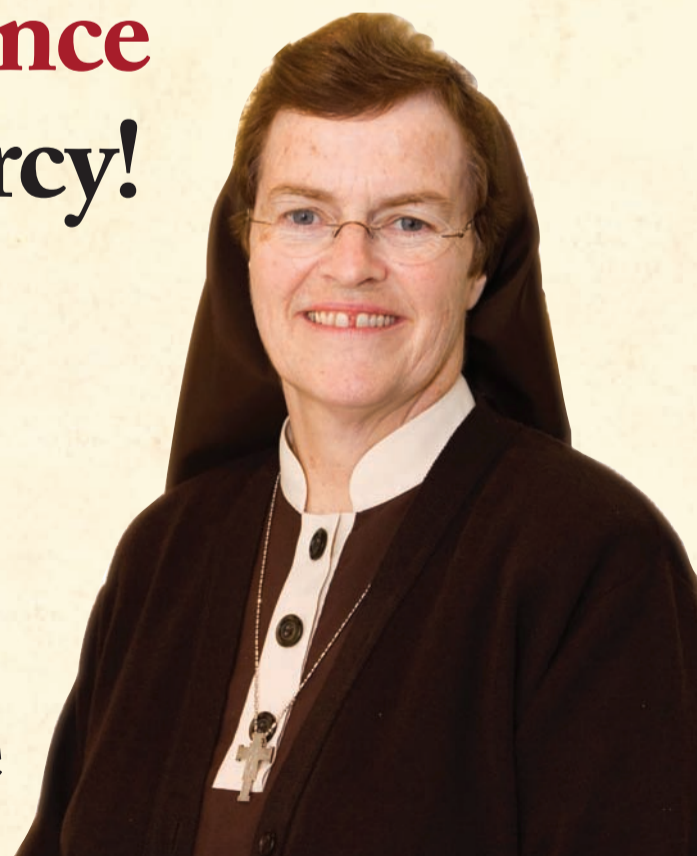
9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Cardinal Spellman  
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Sponsored by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (MIC) and Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR)

# HELP SAVE THE WORLD

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

**D**o you want to help save the world? Do you want to help bring the world back to God? Do you want to cause an ocean of mercy to overwhelm the raging inferno of hatred, violence, and war that have engulfed the world at this time?

Well, *you can*. Better yet, *we can*.

But before I tell you how we can do this, let me first give you some background.

## The first call

In the fall issue of *Marian Helper*, I wrote a cover story entitled, "Mary is the Answer." In it, I called on

all our Marian Helpers to join me in making a Marian Consecration on Dec. 8, 2015, the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy — and the response was amazing. So many of you took me up on my offer to receive Fr. Michael Gaitley's preparation for Marian consecration, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, by making a voluntary donation (yes, even



\$1). More importantly, so many of you joined me as we prayerfully prepared with that book for 33 days and consecrated ourselves on Dec. 8.

On that day, which was also the Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception, we truly became Mary's army. (If you missed out on that experience, don't worry, because

you can still join our ranks, as I'll explain.)

Now, one of the reasons I wanted all our Marian Helpers to formally join Mary's army was so she could use us as a force for good to change our deeply troubled world. In fact, it seems that the world needs it more than ever.

I say that because, since the fall issue, things seem to



Father Chris Alar, MIC, recalls that “as I elevated the Host, it was as if I could feel the rays of Divine Mercy coming out of the Host and filling my heart. More specifically, I clearly felt the Lord put on my heart that we need a *consecration to Divine Mercy*.”

have steadily gotten worse. For instance, in October, an airplane full of more than 200 Russian men, women, and children was shot down in an ISIS terrorist attack. Then, in November, Islamic terrorists massacred more than 100 civilians in Paris in what people are calling “France’s 9/11.” Finally, this past December, shortly before our consecration, the United States suffered its worst terrorist attack since our own 9/11 in the form of a merciless shooting rampage in San Bernardino, California.

So, things are getting worse. But just six days after the California shootings, we consecrated ourselves to Jesus through Mary. We joined Mary’s army. And now she wants to use us to help save the world through the power of Divine Mercy. It all fits together.

Alright, but if you didn’t hear the first call, don’t worry, because now I’m making this second call. Please hear it. In fact, I’m pleading with you. I truly believe this is a matter of life and death for the world and especially our nation. I firmly believe that if we respond wholeheartedly in this time of mercy, together, *we really can help save the world through the might of God’s mercy*. Alright, so what am I inviting you to do? How can we save the world? Well, let me begin by telling you a story.

### Overwhelmed at Mass

About a year and a half ago, I was offering Mass at our Marian Helpers Center when suddenly, in the middle of the prayers, I became overwhelmed by a grace that I can hardly describe. In fact, I’ve never felt anything like it.

It began slowly and then gradually intensified as I came to the moment of Consecration. I remember pronouncing the words, “This is My Body, which will be given up for you.” And then, as I elevated the Host, it was as if I could feel the rays of Divine Mercy coming out of the Host and filling my heart. More specifically, I clearly felt the Lord put on my heart that we need a *consecration to Divine Mercy*.

So, after Mass, I immediately went to Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, and asked him, “Do we have a consecration to Divine Mercy?”

He said, “No. At least I don’t think so.”

I asked him, “Do you think you could write one?”

Father Mike explained that he was too overwhelmed with work to take on such a project.

Because the inspiration had been so strong, I couldn’t give it up. So I told Fr. Mike, “Well, I really think you’re the one who should write it, but if you don’t, then I’ll have to do it. It’s got to be done.”

In the meantime, on the very day that Fr. Mike was finishing another book, a college friend called him on the phone out of the blue — a friend that Fr. Mike hadn't heard from in years. Father Mike had to tell him that he couldn't talk long because he was trying to meet an urgent book deadline that very day. His friend then replied, "No problem. But that's why I called."

Confused, Fr. Mike asked him what he meant. His friend continued, "Well, I was just praying, and I felt an inspiration to call you, because I know what your next book needs to be." He then proceeded to tell Fr. Mike that the book needed to be a preparation for a consecration to Divine Mercy. Specifically, he said, "You need to do for the Offering to Merciful Love of St. Thérèse of Lisieux what you did for Marian consecration. That's all I wanted to tell you. Talk to you later." (The Offering to Merciful Love of St. Thérèse, who is a Doctor of the Church, is perhaps the highest form of consecration to Divine Mercy.)

Father Mike felt that this conversation was no coincidence, and so he asked me if I still wanted him to write a consecration. I said, "Yes!" So Fr. Mike got to work this past November and finished the book in less than a month. He believes it's his best book — and so do I. Why? Because I believe the consecration he describes in it really can help save the world, which brings me to my second invitation to you, our Marian Helpers.

## The second call

Attention all Marian Helpers: I am going to do something I've never done before. I am going to offer you Fr. Mike's brand new book, *33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy*, for free (with any donation of your choosing — yes, even \$1 again). As you may recall, I gave you a similar opportunity to get his other book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, in the fall issue. But that book came out in 2011. This is a brand new book that is being released this February, and I want every Marian Helper to have it because I want each and every one of you to join me in making the consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year. Think about it. There's no more perfect time to make a consecration to Divine Mercy, and here's why.

First of all, as I shared in the fall issue, Pope Francis has said, relying on the testimony of St. John Paul II, that now is the time of mercy in the whole Church. But then he also declared that this year is the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Well, I'm inviting you all to join me in making a consecration to Divine Mercy this Divine Mercy Sunday — April 3. In other words, I'm inviting you to consecrate yourselves to Divine Mercy on what will probably be the greatest

moment of mercy in our lifetimes. I mean, it's literally the *day of mercy*, in the *Year of Mercy*, during the *time of mercy*! And best of all, it's so easy to do. Let me explain.

Those of you who are familiar with Fr. Mike's preparation for consecration to Mary, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, know how easy it is to get through. It's just two-and-a-half pages of reading a day for 33 days. Well, his preparation for consecration to Divine Mercy is no different. It's also just a couple of pages of reading each day for 33 days.

Great. So when do we begin? Well, if we count back 33 days from the day before Divine Mercy Sunday — the consecration day is actually the 34<sup>th</sup> day — that brings us to *March 1*. So, mark your calendars. March 1 is the day we march! March 1 is the day we begin our pilgrimage through

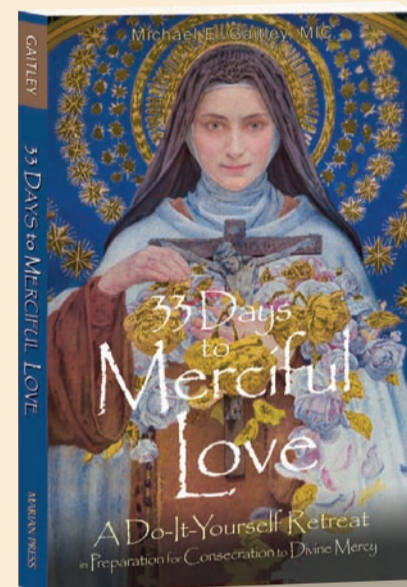
## Here's what to do

I want each and every one of you to join me in making the consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year.

Get the consecration book *33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy*. Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Offered until March 1. Call 1-800-462-7426

or visit [marian.org/merciful](http://marian.org/merciful) and use Product Code: B29F-33DML. (One per household. Continental U.S. only.)

Begin the consecration on March 1 so that you can complete the consecration on April 3 — Divine Mercy Sunday!



Lent to the great Divine Mercy Sunday of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. And I have a special surprise for you on that day.

On Divine Mercy Sunday this year, I'm going to be hosting our live EWTN broadcast from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy beginning at noon (EST). I will have Fr. Mike as a guest, and during the show, we're going to consecrate ourselves to Divine Mercy live on the air. We want you to join us by making this consecration together! We're convinced it will be the largest personal consecration to Divine Mercy ever.

Will you join us? Will you help us save the world? I firmly believe that if we all consecrate ourselves to Divine Mercy, especially on that great day of mercy, it will bring down from Heaven an ocean of mercy for the whole world. You'll see what I mean when you read the book. I promise that you won't be disappointed.

## WORKS OF MERCY CONTEST

In our winter issue of *Marian Helper* magazine, we announced a “Works of Mercy Contest” asking readers to share stories of people making a difference — big or small — in the lives of others. The response was enormous, about 75 entries in all. Together, they stand as a testament to the lives of discipleship so many of you lead.

After much deliberation, we chose the following as the top three entries. They epitomize what it means to give glory to God through love of neighbor.

# ‘SHE TRANSFORMED HER GRIEF INTO ACTS OF LOVE’

**First Place:** Paule Verdet  
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

**Nominated by:**  
Ruthann Keegan,  
Portland, Maine

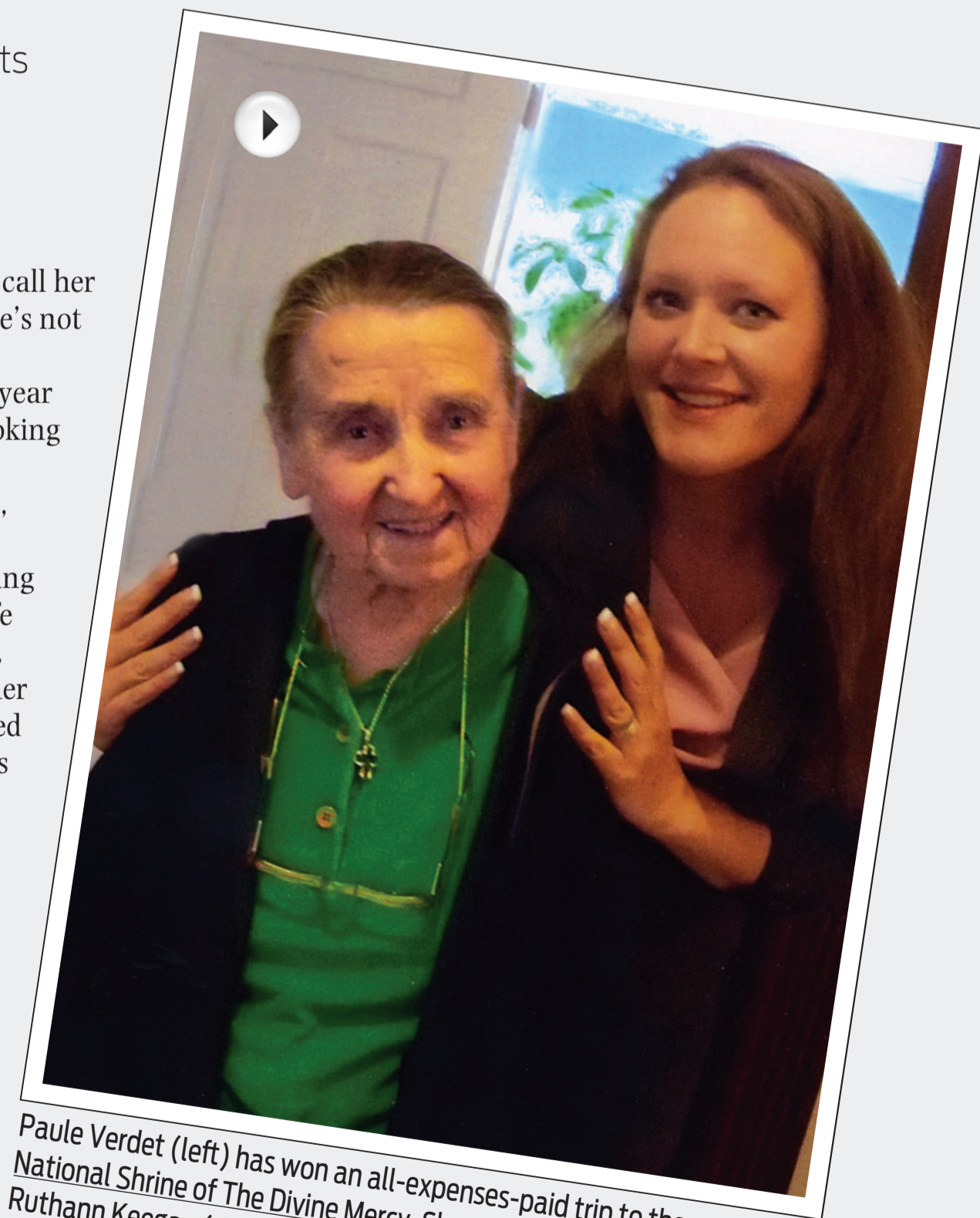
Some call her “Dr. Verdet.” Others simply call her “Paule.” But I call her “Mother” (though she’s not my biological mother).

Paule Verdet is reaching her ninety-third year of life, though you would never guess by looking at her or attempting to keep up with her in traffic. (Oh, yes! She still drives, and quickly, I might add.)

She lived in German-occupied France during the Second World War. The war took the life of her beloved, and, for more than 70 years, she has remained faithful to him, wearing her wedding band even to this day. She has loved no other. She transformed her grief into acts of love, continuing to live the life she and Pierre had first endeavored to live together: one of service to others.

When my husband died, she told me that, just as she and Pierre had been Christ for the other, so it could be with my husband and me. She not only taught this; she embodies it.

She moved to the United States in 1948, receiving her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1957. By 1975, she was far more than a professor of soci-



Paule Verdet (left) has won an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. She will be accompanied by Ruthann Keegan (right), who nominated her.

ology; she lived what she taught, as she always has.

She began welcoming refugees into her home from the war in Indochina. To this day, those families remain a part of her life, even down to the grandchildren of the first refugees for whom she provided shelter, food, and clothing. She has assisted members of the families to obtain college educations (and is still paying on some student loans!).

After retiring from Boston University, she began working at Norfolk Correctional Center in Massachusetts, where, from 1990 until 2013, she was a volunteer professor and aided numerous men to obtain their bachelor's degree.

Dr. Paule Verdet literally feeds the hungry, clothes the poor, and visits those incarcerated.

I volunteer at Maine Correctional Center, and Paule recently did an extraordinary thing. An inmate, Nicole "Nikki" Howe, was released in early December after serving approximately five years. Tragically, she died after only being home with her family for a week or so. When I arrived at her home, a sign still hung on the wall: "Welcome Home Nikki." Her family lives well below the poverty line and could not afford even the expense of a cremation. I called Paule to tell her of what had transpired and the situation the family now faced.

"This is unacceptable," were Paule's words. She left her home in Massachusetts on Wednesday the sixteenth, stayed with me, and attended the funeral service at St. Anthony of Padua Parish on Thursday. Upon walking into the church, the funeral home was handed a check for \$2,000, written out by Dr. Paule Verdet. It is a corporal work of mercy to bury the dead, and so Paule saw to it that it would happen. I worried. I said, "Mother, will you have enough for the end of the month?" She just patted my hand as if to say "not to worry," but I do. Paule will give and give until the ledger reads a zero balance.

When I met Paule, I was not Catholic. I was not Christian. If ever there were a person who is "Christ-like," it would have to be her. Between the years of 2013 and 2015, I underwent numerous operations, including a bilateral mastectomy. She drove from Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, to Portland, Maine, so that she could sleep beside me in the hospital when I was kept overnight. She was there when I awoke from procedures on

more than one occasion.

When my car broke down and was beyond repair, she bought me another so that I could commute to Massachusetts. When life brings me to the area, she cleans out a bedroom. When I was sick and my income was limited, she paid my rent. One might assume that she is a woman of means. She isn't. She hasn't purchased a new dress in more than 10 years. She eats what is on sale and wastes nothing.

It is her example of Christ that brought me to the Church. It is her steadfast love and devotion that give me strength, even in the middle of the night. Were I to call

## Christ demands it

During this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has urged Catholics to recommit ourselves to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Christ underscored this Gospel call through St. Faustina, saying, "I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742).

The classic list of the works of mercy is as follows:

### **Corporal Works**

Feed the hungry  
Give drink to the thirsty  
Clothe the naked  
Shelter the homeless  
Visit the prisoners  
Comfort the sick  
Bury the dead

### **Spiritual Works**

Teach the ignorant  
Pray for the living and the dead  
Correct sinners  
Counsel those in doubt  
Console the sorrowful  
Bear wrongs patiently  
Forgive wrongs willingly

her near the midnight hour, she would take my call and talk with me until the tears were dry.

When I received my Rite of Welcoming into the Catholic Church on Nov. 22, 2015, Paule — Mother — stood by my side.

It is not one single act for which I nominate Dr. Verdet. It is for the entire life she has led in faithful service to God and the Church.

**For a practical guide to performing the works of mercy, look no further than the Marian Press title *'You Did It to Me' (B29-2ME)* by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. Visit [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org) or call 1-800-462-7426.**

# Prayerful and generous

Sandy Muldowney, Brighton, Michigan

Nominated by: Sharon Gross  
and friends

Sandy Muldowney, a member of St. Patrick's here in Brighton, is unassuming, but the work she does for others speaks loudly of the love she has for God. Her goodness is doubly inspiring considering the pain she herself has suffered.

In 1988, a house fire claimed the life of her 8-year-old daughter. Sandy suffered severe burns trying to save her other children. Twenty years later, Sandy lost her husband of 37 years, Dan, due to lung cancer. Every time she encounters empty cigarette packages, she prays for the souls in Purgatory who suffered from this disease.

Now a widow, Sandy has extended assistance to a homeless woman by providing housing. A retired kitchen manager from the Brighton Area Schools, Sandy still feeds the hungry and provides drink for the thirsty as a volunteer with our local Gleaners Food Bank. She also cooks for our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults group. Her backyard is home to several ever-bearing raspberry bushes. Sandy prepares the most delicious jam, which she gives away. For many years, Sandy would prepare meals for a 98-year-old parishioner who lived alone.

As a member of the Gardening Angels, Sandy has cared for the flowerbeds and urns adjacent to the Adult Faith



Sandy Muldowney (far right) with her dear friends.

Formation Center.

A committed Eucharistic minister, Sandy provides Communion once a month at Brighton Hospital. She leads the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet recitation at 3 o'clock every Friday. She is a member of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. This past Divine Mercy Sunday, she was asked to share her testimony. She shared how God's mercy has filled her life. Her brother gave her a Divine Mercy Image after the house fire, and Sandy has venerated the image in her home ever since.

She is quiet, like the Blessed Mother, whom she loves and honors. She's devout and prayerful, like St. Faustina. She's generous with her time, talents, and treasure, like Blessed Teresa. The mercy of God has touched her life, and it is the mercy of God that she shares with others. MH

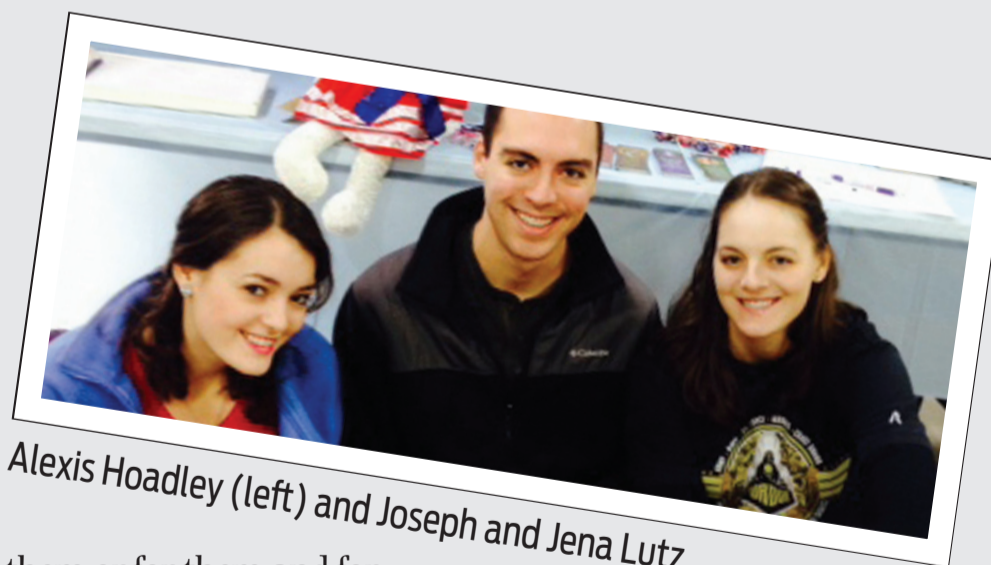
## Mercy is their 'major'

Alexis Hoadley and Joseph and  
Jena Lutz, West Lafayette, Indiana

Nominated by: Julia Haskell

Purdue University students Alexis Hoadley, Joseph Lutz, and his twin sister, Jena Lutz, are the coordinators of the Never Alone Ministry to the Elderly (NAME) of St. Thomas Aquinas Church here in West Lafayette. They recruit volunteers to go to the local nursing homes and visit residents in hospice to bring them God's love and companionship. They also ask those who can't visit the elderly to write caring cards for those who are lonely and have no visitors. They recruit musicians to join Movement D, which brings musical entertainment to nursing homes.

Recently, they participated in what's called a Stand Down, which provides friendship and resources to military veterans and military families. The students specifically provided prayers for homeless and disabled veterans by praying with



Alexis Hoadley (left) and Joseph and Jena Lutz.

them or for them and for their intentions.

Also, they see to it that a wedding cup is given to newlyweds to remember the love they gave each other on their wedding day.

They are wonderful young people doing great works of mercy. MH

IN THE NEXT NINE PAGES, WE HIGHLIGHT PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS THAT SERVE AS POWERFUL EXAMPLES OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION AT WORK IN THE WORLD TODAY. ENJOY!

# Holy grounds through coffee grounds

By Felix Carroll

Made of wood and corrugated steel — whatever materials are available — makeshift coffee bars have sprung up in hard-scrabble military bases around the world.

They serve as wake-up calls in more ways than one.

Thank Holy Joe's Café, an all-volunteer ecumenical ministry that provides United States military chaplains in 35 countries with fresh, free coffee. Since the ministry began nearly 10 years ago, some 1,800 chaplains of all faiths have used the coffee to enhance their "ministry of presence," says Thomas Jastermsky, founder of Holy Joe's Café, which he administers with a handful of volunteers out of First Congregational Church in Wallingford, Connecticut.

The Marians are urging Marian Helpers to financially support the efforts of Holy Joe's. The funds go directly to the purchase of Mystic Monk Coffee, roasted by the Carmelite Monks in Wyoming.

"Supporting Holy Joe's serves two worthy purposes," says Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers. "It helps chaplains create these café settings where our military men and women can come and decompress and have an opportunity to speak with a chaplain. Secondly, it helps support the Carmelite Monks, who do great work."

Not to mention that the coffee shipped by Holy Joe's decidedly breaks rank with the reported "rotgut" of military mess halls. This is the good stuff.

Holy Joe's provided Marian U.S. Army Chaplain Fr. Donald Van Alstyne with everything he needed for a coffee ministry he established in Afghanistan in 2012.

"The soldiers in this workspace are under pressure



24/7, so these items go a long way," says Fr. Donald, who now serves as a full-time hospital chaplain for the Veteran's Administration in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In military camps, such cafés have literally become godsend.

"Through a single cup of our coffee," says Mr. Jastermsky, "chaplains can

connect with the troops and provide information on what religious services are offered, including prayer groups and Bible studies. You never know what kinds of seeds are going to get planted in a situation like that. Being away from everything back home can take a toll on them."

In addition, says Mr. Jastermsky, "troops who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can oftentimes take the first step in getting help through the chaplains."

Holy Joe's ships about 2,700 pallets of coffee a year overseas. That equates

to about 32.4-million cups of coffee, annually. But that's still not enough to meet demand.

In addition to the Carmelite Monks who sell coffee to the ministry, coffee companies such as Keurig Green Mountain and New England Coffee Company have been generous donors. Civic groups and churches nationwide have contributed funds.

Soldiers experience a "huge morale boost" when they receive supplies from back home, Fr. Donald says. Such shipments, he says, "serve as an acknowledgement that people back home are thinking of them and haven't forgotten the hardship, fear, and sacrifice" that can define daily life overseas.

To support Holy Joe's, please call (203) 859-0031 or email [holyjoescafe@att.net](mailto:holyjoescafe@att.net).

## NEW EVANGELIZATION: MERCY ON THE WAR FRONT



# ▶ Now *you* can be a Marian

By Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC

In previous issues of *Marian Helper*, you may have read about a group of young men who give a year to God to do works of mercy. They're called the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, and they live at the old Merrell Inn in Lee, Massachusetts, which is just a five-minute drive up the road from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge.

For nearly two years now, these Missionaries have been doing great work in the local community and surrounding region, bringing Divine Mercy where the need is greatest.

For instance, every week, they go out to the streets of cities such as Boston or New York to engage in a ministry of presence with the homeless. Also, each week, they visit the sick and lonely in the local hospitals or nursing homes.

Up to now, the Marian Missionaries has only been open to young men who could move to Massachusetts and sacrifice a year of their time. But now, beginning with the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we're opening up the Marian Missionaries to *everyone*. Now *you* can become a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy.

Having said that, I should further say that, just as it's not easy for a young man to leave home and give a year to God, so also becoming a Marian Missionary isn't easy. I mean, it certainly requires more than simply signing a registration form. In fact, it takes time, energy, and effort. But if you're up for it, it will change your life and allow you to

belong to something that you can be very proud of. Sound interesting? Here's what you need to do.

## Go back to school

To become a Marian Missionary, you'll need to go back to school. But I'm not talking about high school or college. I'm talking about the local school of *your parish*, where you can take courses that will form you into a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy. More specifically, the "school" is called Hearts

Afire: Parish-based Programs from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (HAPP®).

Now, you may already have heard about HAPP either in this magazine or from advertisements at your local parish.

I say "at your local parish" because reportedly HAPP is now the most popular parish evangelization program in America. So I wouldn't be surprised if you've already taken one of the courses, such as the 33 Days to Morning Glory or Consoling the Heart of Jesus group retreats. But what may surprise you is that those courses (retreats) *are not isolated experiences*. In fact, each course builds on the other, and when you complete all four of them, then you'll be qualified to become an official Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy. (The Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy is actually "Stage Three" of HAPP. See diagram at right).

To learn more about HAPP and how you can start HAPP

**NEW EVANGELIZATION:  
MERCY IN  
THE PARISH**



# Missionary of Divine Mercy

courses at your local parish, contact us at 877-200-4277.

## Get the free handbook

So, what is an official Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy? It's someone who not only has completed all the HAPP programs, but who then commits him- or herself to a simple program of daily prayer and works of mercy that I lay out in the *Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy Handbook*. That handbook has three parts.

The first part describes the identity, spirituality, and mission of the Marian Missionaries. The second part is called "Essentials of Formation," and it offers a concise summary and review of the entire Hearts Afire Program. Finally, the third part is called "Plan of Life," and it presents a flexible structure of prayer and works of mercy that even the most busy people can embrace and put into practice in their lives.

Best of all, you can get a copy of this 136-page handbook FOR FREE. Just visit [MarianMissionaries.org](http://MarianMissionaries.org) or call us at 1-800-462-7426. *Shipping rates apply.*

## Join the army

Look: If we're going to win back our country and the world for God, we need to come together. We need an organized, well-trained army to get the job done by the grace of God. That's what the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy is all about. And now you can be part of it. You can join the ranks of our spiritual army: the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy.

*Speaking of armies, don't miss the special opportunity to "march" with us to Divine Mercy Sunday, beginning on March 1! (See Fr. Joseph's article "Help Save the World" on pages 12-15.)*

## Essentials of Formation

### STAGE ONE The Two Hearts



PART ONE: The Immaculate Heart



PART TWO: The Sacred Heart

### STAGE TWO Wisdom and Works of Mercy

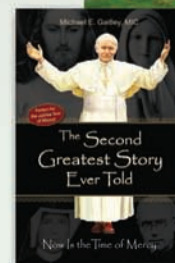


PART ONE: Wisdom

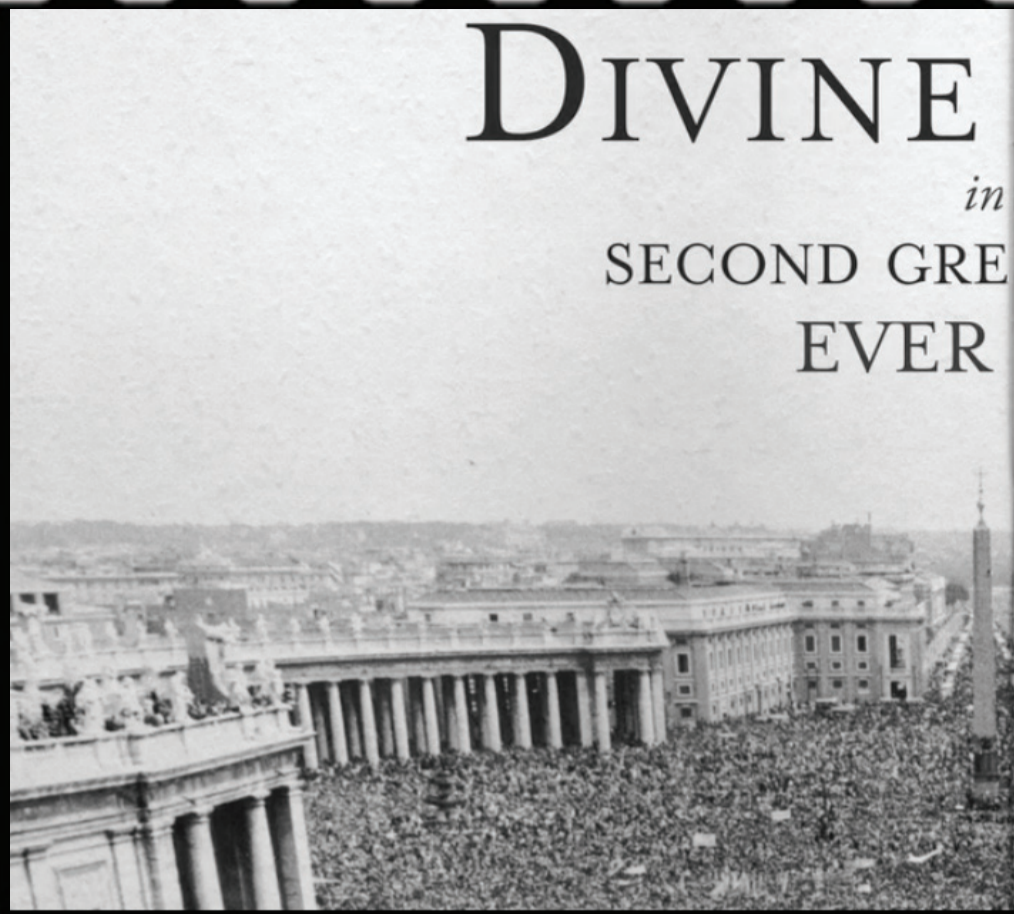


PART TWO: Works of Mercy

### STAGE THREE Keeping the Hearts Afire



More Books, Programs, and Activities



# DIVINE

in  
SECOND GREATEST  
EVER

# Lights. Camera. Salvation!

By Felix Carroll

One has been called the finest-quality Catholic documentary ever filmed. It'll be released by the end of January. The second has already changed lives.

What a great way to begin the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Take a seat, press play, and behold two series available on DVD to Marian Helpers.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, author of an ever-widening shelf of bestselling books, is the host of both series, which are based on his writings.

The first, a 10-part series called "Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told," was produced by the Denver-based Augustine Institute last summer. The second is a five-part EWTN series called "'You Did It to Me': Putting Mercy Into Action," which first aired on the global Catholic television network on Dec. 14-18.

"We've been truly blessed to have these two rather large media megaphones to share the Divine Mercy message in places we might not otherwise have been able to reach," says the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior. "God is doing wonder-

ful things through Fr. Michael, and we're seeing so much fruit from it."

As to the Augustine Institute documentary, based on the book *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* (Marian Press, 2015), Fr. Michael connects the dots — the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, and the witnesses of St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina, and St. John Paul II — and what emerges is a veritable spiritual affidavit for why now is the time of mercy.

"Now is a time of great and extraordinary grace for the Church and the world," says Fr. Michael in the series's opening. "In fact, [God]

seems to be telling us that He desires to give us unprecedented grace and mercy in response to the unprecedented evil in our modern world."

So taken were they with the content of the book that the Augustine Institute, which serves to form Catholics for the New Evangelization, put everything they had into the documentary. Funding was secured through a generous donor. Celebrated former Hollywood producer Steve Flanigan had sets specially built. The Institute was able

**NEW EVANGELIZATION:  
MERCY IN MASS MEDIA**

# MERCY

the  
LATEST STORY  
TOLD



to acquire the rights to photos and film from the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal that had never before been released to the public.

“I look at this project as being a gift to Catholics for the Year of Mercy,” says Mr. Flanigan. “Daily, I am blessed with the message Fr. Mike spoke on set.”

## ‘You Did It to Me’

As for the EWTN series, based on Fr. Michael’s book *‘You Did It To Me’: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action* (Marian Press, 2014), it focuses on the Lord’s demands as depicted in the Last Judgment scene from Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus makes it clear whom He calls to Heaven — namely, only those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, comfort the sick, and visit those in prison.

In both the book and the EWTN series, Fr. Michael unpacks the works of mercy and provides practical action plans to implement them.

“I think many of us are *intimidated* by the works of mercy,” Fr. Michael says in the series’ opening, “and we’re afraid to embrace them as a way of life because we think they’re going to be difficult or complicated. But they’re not.”

We already know the impact the series is having for

Christ and His Church. Just ask Gary Henderson of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Picture this: Man comes home from a hard day’s work. Reheats leftovers. Plops down in front of the TV.

Rummages with the TV clicker, up and down, down and up, channel to channel, looking to settle on suitably distracting schlock with which to wind down. For whatever reason, and out of character, he pauses on EWTN, his thumb hovering over the TV clicker like the sword of Damocles. He listens as this young priest, Fr. Michael, speaks with joy and humor about a matter upon which our salvation rests.

Our man puts the clicker down and gives this young priest ample opportunity to hold his attention. The priest succeeds. The Lord has barged His way into an unwitting soul and rearranged things.

Our man Gary is the son of Mary Henderson of Jersey City, New Jersey. She has been praying for years that

her son would embrace the Christian faith — Catholic, Protestant, she’s not picky. Christ’s call to action has spoken to his heart, he says. For starters, he has signed up as a volunteer for Meals-on-Wheels.

“Prayers are still needed,” Mary says, “but he’s pretty worked up about all this.”

MH

## NOW AVAILABLE

- ‘You Did It to Me’: Putting Mercy Into Action — [B29-2MEDVD](#) \$24.95
- Divine Mercy In The Second Greatest Story Ever Told DVD Set — [B29-SGDVD](#) \$99.95
- Divine Mercy In The Second Greatest Story Ever Told Kit (DVD Set, Guidebook) — [B29-SSET](#) \$114.90

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b29](http://ShopMercy.org/b29)  
or call 1-800-462-7426.



# A CALL-OUT TO FAUSTINA FROM THE EPICENTER OF HIP-HOP

By Felix Carroll

**T**his wasn't the plan at all, the subject matter of these rhymes cast forth from a rooftop above the roughened streets of the Bronx.

*I pray the novena, I pray the novena  
I been kinda slipping but I won't start tripping  
Cuz I pray with St. Faustina.*

**NEW EVANGELIZATION:  
MERCY IN MUSIC**

What in the world happened to Rabelz, a hip-hop artist formerly of the school of jewel-bearing swaggards paying divine homage to female flesh and material possessions?

Well, Rabelz's priorities have changed. A lot. Within the first few seconds of this music video being filmed on the rooftop of Our Lady of the Angels Friary on 155th Street, this becomes rather evident.

The man who grew up in a two-bedroom Brooklyn apartment he shared with his mother and three siblings, who was arrested for fighting, expelled from high school,

who dreamed of fame, of getting out, of following in the pricey-sneakered footsteps of his rags-to-riches rapper idols — well, here he is, hands in prayer before the camera. A church organ plays. A snare drum slaps a wake-up call. It stings. It's meant to. Then Rabelz's rapid-fire rapping begins.

The song: "Novena." The album: *#Mercy*. The rapper:

not pussyfooting around.

“My goal, my mission,” says Rabelz, “is to expose Jesus’ Divine Mercy to hip-hop culture, to youth, and to the world before it’s too late.”

And it’s no accident he announced the release of *#Mercy* on the opening of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on Dec. 8. In a way, to all those paying attention — and there are many — Rabelz is sending out a station-identification from Bronx, New York, from the very geographical center of hip-hop culture, that the revelations of a humble Polish peasant nun have been received and absorbed.

Doubtless no one is more surprised about this turn of events than Rabelz himself. But in retrospect, for today’s youth, many of whom are raised in a culture that has long eschewed rules governing right and wrong, what could be more rebellious than obedience to God’s law, a lifestyle so ancient, it could easily be mistaken for innovative?

Indeed, for a self-identified rebel, what’s more defiant than following Christ’s Gospel call through St. Faustina that “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to [His] mercy” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 300)?

That’s how he sees it, anyway. Off-stage, his name is Melvin Windley. He’s 29 years old. He’s married. He and his wife, Diana, live in a one-bedroom apartment with their four young children. In videos and on stage, he’s loose-limbed in that stylized and streetwise manner of hip-hop artists that strives to say, “I’ve got everything figured out, and I’m scared of nothing.”

But with his children and his wife, he’s a softy. He dressed in a Crayola Crayon costume for Halloween (blue). He can share some of the more educational quests of Dora the Explorer. He prays as he writes.

And he is, indeed, scared of one thing in particular. He realized this back in 2004. During a rocky time in their relationship, Diana presented him with a copy of St. Faustina’s *Diary*. Diana grew up in a devout Catholic household in upstate New York. She was introduced to the *Diary* by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx after she moved to the city for college.

Melvin wasn’t one to read books. He promptly tossed it to the side. But when he finally picked it up one day, he hadn’t even gotten to page three before he knew he wanted this book to be with him for the rest of his life.

My goal, my mission,  
is to expose Jesus’  
Divine Mercy to  
hip-hop culture,  
to youth, and to  
the world before  
it’s too late.

— Rabelz

“The fact that St. Faustina recorded words of Christ written in the 1930s — the same century I was born in — it just blew me away,” Melvin says.

It was entry 42 that terrified him. In it, Jesus tells St. Faustina He’s going to leave the convent at once, so displeased He was with the lack of holiness there. “I will not let You leave this house, Jesus!” Faustina pleads. Seeing her love for Him, Jesus stays.

“I read that, and I thought, ‘He’s serious. He means business. He will leave if we don’t accept His mercy,’” Melvin recalls. “Suddenly, I was afraid He could leave me.

I never wanted to do anything that would make Him leave me.”

Not long after reading that, Melvin picked up his book of rhymes — thick as a New York City phonebook — and tossed it into an incinerator. No more singing about sex. No more disrespecting women. No more worshiping the things of the world — jewelry, money, material possessions. No more being misled. No more misleading others. No more wasting his time and his talents.

He was baptized in the Catholic Church in 2005. He and Diana married in 2006. He thanks Diana for “fighting the spiritual battle for my soul.” He began using his gifts to proclaim the Word of God through hip-hop in 2007.

He has earned a name for himself through his web presence (at [soundcloud.com/rabelzthemc](https://soundcloud.com/rabelzthemc) and [rabelzthemc.com](https://rabelzthemc.com)) and through performances sponsored by Catholic Under-ground. His album *#Diary*, released in early 2015, stands as arguably the most powerful and creative alliance between the Divine Mercy movement and urban culture.

It’s no surprise that he has experienced his fair share of ridicule from the hip-hop community, “but there was a lot of hating on St. Faustina, too, in her lifetime,” Melvin says with a laugh.

He deals with it the best way he knows how: through rapping. “*They could try to stab me in my back/ but it will never penetrate my soul,*” he sings in his song “Problems,” available on his streaming website.

He realizes the unlikelihood of this musical path bringing him wealth and fame, so he remains true to the mission, committed to prayer. He has a day job now as an administrator at a medical clinic. He’s at peace.

Why else would he be singing Good News from a rooftop?

MH



FELIX CARROLL

# Calls to prayer. Calls to action.

The Marian Fathers and their apostolates are ramping up their evangelization efforts this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy for a dual purpose: to educate and to stir discipleship.

Here are some of the highlights leading up to spring:

## Tampa, here we come

The Marians will host a “Living Divine Mercy in the Jubilee Year” conference in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, Feb. 20.

“This conference is geared toward giving people the spiritual tools with which to live the lives the Lord is calling upon us to live,” says Dr. Bryan Thatcher, MD, founder and director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers.

Featured speakers will be Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, a celebrated author; Fr. Dante Aguero, MIC, superior of the Marians’ Vicariate of Argentina; Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers; and Dr. Thatcher.

Talks will include “Why You Need to Know God’s Message of Mercy”; “Sacraments of Mercy”; “Our Lady

and Trust”; and “The Works of Mercy and Building the Kingdom.”

## NEW EVANGELIZATION: MERCY EN MASSE

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church is the location. Pre-registration cost is \$40, with breakfast and lunch included. Priests and religious may attend free

of charge.

To register, visit [TheDivineMercy.org/tampa](http://TheDivineMercy.org/tampa) or call 1-800-462-7426.

## The goal of the ‘field hospital’

“Pope Francis has inspired the Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy this Jubilee Year of Mercy to tenderly treat patients and to do so hand in hand with treating the person and the soul, keeping in our hearts the ‘image of the Church as a field hospital after a battle,’” says Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of the Marians’ healthcare apostolate.

That’s the clarion call to healthcare professionals gearing up for the apostolate’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference on May 4-5, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Continuing education credits are available.

“This Jubilee, we are especially called to minister to those in greatest need,” says Marie. “While providing expert medical care, we simultaneously have to make sure patients



**Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**

have the best spiritual care as well.”

The keynote speaker is Fr. Patrice Chocholski, general secretary of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy and rector of the Shrine of Ars in France. Leading names in medicine and bioethics will present talks as well.

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/worcester](http://TheDivineMercy.org/worcester) or call 1-800-462-7426 for information and to register.



**Fr. Patrice Chocholski**

## Mercy in the Bronx

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Divine Mercy Conference in Bronx, New York, will be held Saturday, April 16, at Cardinal Spellman High School.

Sponsored by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the conference provides formation in the Divine Mercy message and devotion from some of the greatest Catholic speakers and teachers in the world.

This year's speakers include the internationally renowned Sr. Briega McKenna, OSC, speaker and intercessor; Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC, director of the Marian Evangelization Team; Msgr. James Lisante, author; Fr. John Paul Ouelette, CFR, community servant, who works with the poor in New York City; and Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, the Marians' vicar general in Rome.



**Sr. Briega McKenna, OSC**

The main celebrant for Holy Mass will be Msgr. Thomas Nydeggar, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

“The conference is in harmony with what Pope Francis is encouraging us to do in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy,” says Ed Miller, the conference organizer. “It will deepen our understanding of Divine Mercy and inspire us to live the message.”

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/bronx](http://TheDivineMercy.org/bronx) or call 1-800-462-7426 for information and to register.

## Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend!

This one is the biggie. The Marians at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend on April 2-3, with the theme centered on Pope Francis' special call this Jubilee Year that the faithful be “merciful like the Father.”

“So much of what this Jubilee Year is about seems tailor-made to our Shrine's mission,” says Shrine Rector Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC. “Divine Mercy Weekend will be especially joyful as we reaffirm this mission of teaching about the Lord's great desire to heal us from our brokenness and despair.”

The Marians expect more than 20,000 pilgrims during the weekend. The principal celebrant of the Sunday Mass will be the Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts. Among the musical guests will be Anna Nuzzo.

On Saturday and Sunday, tents will be set up for Confessions, Adoration, the Divine Mercy Gift Shop, and more. One highlight of the weekend will be the prayer banner composed of thousands of Marian Helpers' prayer intentions for Mercy Sunday. Please submit your intentions at [marian.org/prayerbanner](http://marian.org/prayerbanner).

Can't make it to the Shrine? Don't worry! You can view the celebration live on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) on April 3. The show begins at noon (EST).

About 650 volunteers are needed for the weekend. Those interested in volunteering for any part of the weekend can email [volunteers@marian.org](mailto:volunteers@marian.org) or call (413) 298-1114.

On-line bus registration has begun. Registration is on a first-come basis. Visit [marian.org/busses](http://marian.org/busses). Parking is limited. (Mailing forms and checks will significantly delay the process.)

MH

## BOOK 'EM!

Are you looking to invite to your parish some of the most passionate Divine Mercy evangelizers in the world today? Here are a few options:

- **The Marian Evangelization Team** travels to parishes throughout the country. Call 1-866-895-3236 or email [parishmissions@marian.org](mailto:parishmissions@marian.org).
- **Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM)** have been barnstorming North America for more than 15 years now with their powerful multi-media presentations geared to youth and adults alike. Call (830) 634-7765 or email [momm@marian.org](mailto:momm@marian.org).
- **Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM)** instructs the faithful and helps to mobilize people to

serve the poor, pray for the sick and dying, and support pro-life efforts. Email [eadm@marian.org](mailto:eadm@marian.org) or call 1-877-380-0727.

- **Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy** is a worldwide network that advocates spiritual care of the sick, injured, and dying using the Divine Mercy message and devotion. Founder of the apostolate Marie Romagnano, RN, gives talks worldwide to hospital in-service programs and at general events. Call 1-866-895-3236 or email [HCPforDivineMercy@marian.org](mailto:HCPforDivineMercy@marian.org).

*To keep up with the events and speaking engagements of Marians and their apostolates throughout this Jubilee Year, visit [TheDivineMercy.org/events](http://TheDivineMercy.org/events).*



Pope Francis' historic address to Congress

# FOUR GREAT AMERICANS AND THE CALL TO HOLINESS

By Joan Lamar

Abraham Lincoln. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dorothy Day. Thomas Merton.

Liberty. Equal rights. Care for the oppressed. Fostering dialogue.

Pope Francis spotlighted these four Americans and these four virtues in his historic address to Congress during his visit to the United States last September. Why these particular individuals?

First, let's look at the context. The first pope ever to speak before a joint meeting of Congress, Pope Francis was surely aware of the enormity of his task and the weight his words could carry. He was also aware of who he was speaking to. Congress is a secular body, representative of a pluralist American society. And while it is a body concerned with the business and politics of the world, it was nonetheless founded on transcendent principles —namely, the dignity and rights of the person.

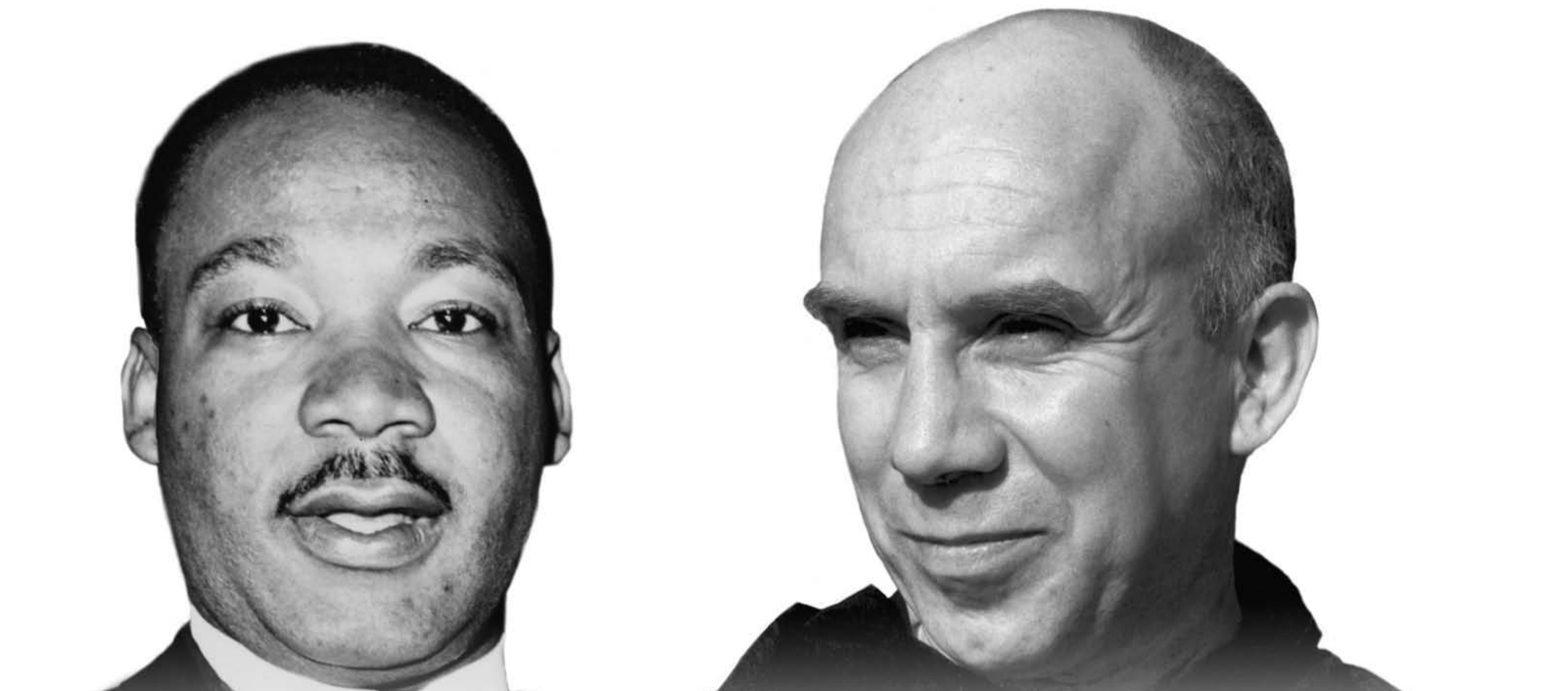
At the outset of his address, Pope Francis recalled the figure of Moses who was also a lawgiver and who was also chosen to lead and protect a people. "Moses provides us with a good synthesis of your work: You are asked to

protect, by means of the law, the image and likeness fashioned by God on every human face," the Holy Father said.

Pope Francis then asked the elected officials before him to closely consider the people they serve. He mentioned working families striving "to build a better life" and who "in their own quiet way sustain the life of society." He mentioned the elderly, "who are a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience, and who seek in many ways, especially through volunteer work, to share their stories and their insights." He mentioned young people, "working to realize their great and noble aspirations."

Having drawn this composite of the American people under their governance, the Holy Father then evoked the memory of Lincoln, Day, Merton, and King, who were able "to shape fundamental values which will endure forever in the spirit of the American people." Their causes remain as vital today as ever and "offer us a way of seeing and interpreting reality," he said.

Pope Francis spoke of Lincoln's unremitting work for a "new birth" in this country, built upon "love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity



and solidarity.” In a world that has increasingly become “a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion,” Pope Francis warned against the temptation of “simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners. The contemporary world, with its open wounds which affect so many of our brothers and sisters, demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps.”

Rather than turning from these wounds, the Holy Father said we are called to tend to them and offer people hope and healing — in short, to be Christ in the world, as messy as this world is.

He moved on to the figure of Martin Luther King, who continued Lincoln’s quest and fought tirelessly for full civil rights for African Americans. He related King’s dream to that of our freedom-seeking forebears who immigrated here for a better life. King’s dream and the dream of our ancestors run parallel to those of the millions of refugees and migrants fleeing violence, oppression, and poverty in parts of the Middle East and central and South America.

Against the backdrop of rancorous political debate in the U.S. over immigration policy, the Holy Father said, “We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal.”

As for Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, Pope Francis shared how her work with the poor and her passion for justice for the oppressed were grounded in a deep faith that she tried to live out in imitation of the saints.

Pope Francis said so many people today remain “trapped in poverty,” and we, too, are called to respond by

carrying out works of mercy to our brothers and sisters.

Finally, Pope Francis spoke of Merton, the Trappist monk and contemplative. Merton, he said, “opened up new horizons for souls and for the Church” as he dialogued with people from other faiths.

“Merton was above all a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time,” Francis said. “He was also a man of dialogue, a promoter of peace between peoples and religions.” Francis said that a good political leader is one who strives for the same.

Pope Francis then steered his address to the topic of family. Indeed, the initial reason for his U.S. trip was to attend the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The family, he said, “is threatened, perhaps as never before, from within and without.” He alluded to the high divorce rate, a rising trend of unwed couples living together, the redefinition of marriage itself, and the effects of family brokenness on many youth who “seem disoriented and aimless, trapped in a hopeless maze of violence, abuse and despair. Their problems are our problems.”

Indeed, broken families lead to a broken society. So what should our response be to the crisis of the family? What guidance can we glean from Lincoln, Day, Merton, and King — and Pope Francis, himself?

Sacrificial love is what’s most necessary in family life. It’s what’s most necessary in the world. If we carry out the noble task of loving our spouses, our children, our elderly parents, our neighbors, and our enemies — even when it’s hard, even under the cross — we will be lights in the world and will begin to build God’s Kingdom on earth. That is greatness. That is holiness. And, in our own quiet way, we will carry on the work of the four great Americans of whom Pope Francis spoke.

To quote Francis’ final remarks to Congress, “God bless America!”

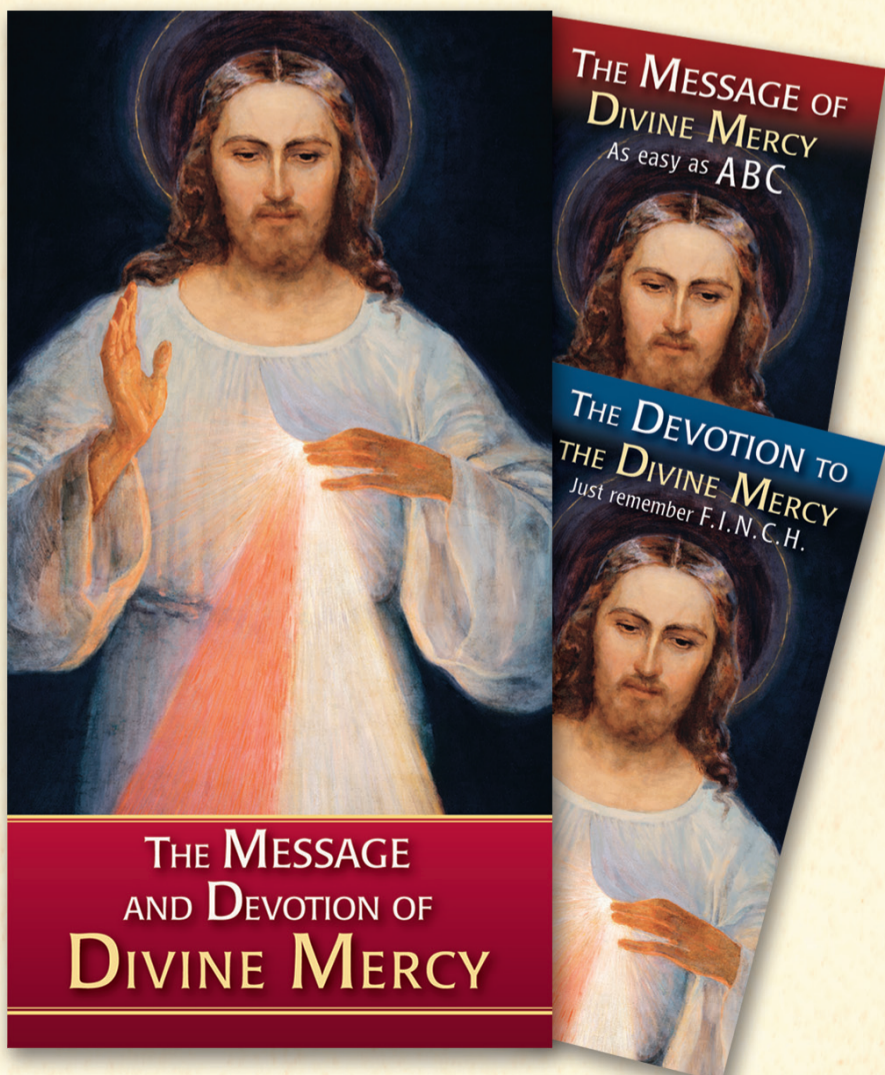
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# SAINT JOSEPH LENDS A HAND



FELIX CARROLL

It has been on the bathroom mirror for as long as I can remember — as far back as when I used to stand on the toilet seat to watch my father shave. I have a memory of asking what it was and why it was there and hearing his response. “That is the prayer to St. Joseph,” he said, “and I read it every morning to ask St. Joseph to watch over all of us. Listen to what it says ...” and he proceeded to read “An Ancient Prayer to St. Joseph.”

My father is a Joseph and has always had a devotion to St. Joseph. As a man who made a living working with his hands, he has always considered our spiritual father to be his patron saint, and he (and Mom) made sure they shared the devotion with us. Growing up, the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19 was just as important as St. Patrick’s Day (my mom is Irish).

As a teenager, I tried to faithfully pray to St. Joseph for his protection, and my siblings and I to this day believe we won’t die a horrible death because of our prayers back then. Since I returned to the Church and started working here at the Marian Helpers Center, I have come to a new appreciation for St. Joseph and his role as patron of the Universal Church and foster father and protector of Jesus.

But it really is my father who has done the most to cement my devotion to St. Joseph, and this is how. Last spring he pulled me aside, somewhat conspiratorially, to tell me he wanted to do something for our local parish. “There is a tabernacle that Father would like to install in the chapel, but it needs a cabinet around it. I’m going to build the cabinet. I don’t want to tell a lot of people because I want to take my time and do it right without any pressure.”

My father works with his hands, as I said, but this is

the first time I know of that he attempted to craft something like this — something that would go beyond the boundaries of his own house. I knew from his tone that he was serious about wanting it to be worthy of residing in God’s house, and maybe a little doubtful of his ability to make it happen.

He spent quite a bit of time finding the lumber (it had to be oak) and spent I don’t know how much time making drawings and taking measurements. Progress was made, and one day, when I was admiring his work, Dad said, “I can’t take much of the credit, Mare. Every day when I’ve been out here working, I’ve prayed to St. Joseph to help me, and all of the things I was most worried about doing have gone just great.”

So, the tabernacle is now built (as you can see above). All that remains is to actually make the installation, which will require more hands. I know for certain that St. Joseph guided my father’s hands and heart in this project, just as he has done for the entire 87 years of Dad’s life. I can only pray that he will do the same for me.

**Send us your family’s intentions for St. Joseph. We will include them in our novena to St. Joseph at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. (Visit [marian.org/b29](http://marian.org/b29) for details.)**

Mary Clark is a third-generation Marian Helper. Her grandfather donated dairy cattle to the Marians in the 1940s, and her uncle worked on the construction of the Shrine.

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*Father,  
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*Father,  
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### New job leads to engagement

Last February, we received the Spring issue of *Marian Helper*. I was praying for a special intention, and my husband showed me the Graces Received article in the magazine and how Blessed George had helped people get jobs. Then, he suggested I ask Blessed George for his intercession.

I asked Blessed George to help my daughter's boyfriend get the job he wanted as a customer field representative, which was not an easy job to get. My husband and I prayed for this intention and lit candles daily.

Within two weeks, he was called to take the test for the job. After another two weeks, he was called for an interview. Then the hiring process slowed down for him while others were being hired. I worried that Blessed George had forgotten about me or maybe I had bothered him too much with my daily prayers and candles.

It took eight months, but he got the job.

Once he got this job, he asked my daughter to marry him! They will be married next October. Even though it took a long time, I am grateful to Blessed George for his intercession.

— GG, Bronx, New York

### My son didn't want to work

I was praying for our son to find work as a carpenter when I received a Blessed George prayercard. When I found out that my son didn't want to work, I turned to

Blessed George to intercede for this father of three teenage girls. I asked that my son would change his attitude and not only want to work, but find work and excel at his carpentry. He is now working, running his own business.

— RM, Clayville, New York



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

### Son gets good job

I received the Spring issue of *Marian Helper* magazine, and as I read a letter written by a mom who had asked Blessed George to intercede for her son to get a job. I thought, "OK Blessed George, you found a good job for her son — please, my son needs a good job, too!"

Imagine how I felt when my son called to say he had a good job offer. He had been looking for several months and is married with a family.

He is now working and quite happy. Soon after he took the job, another company called to say that if it didn't work out with his new job, to contact them.

I have since called and ordered Blessed George prayercards for my family and to share with others.

— DB, Brockton, Massachusetts

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For a Blessed George prayercard (B29-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: [graces@marian.org](mailto:graces@marian.org).

# SPREAD THE MESSAGE



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# Jubilee Year of Mercy Resources



## The Divine Mercy 101 Kit

Includes everything listed here, PLUS everything in the Jubilee Year Pack below!

B29-DMKIT \$29.95

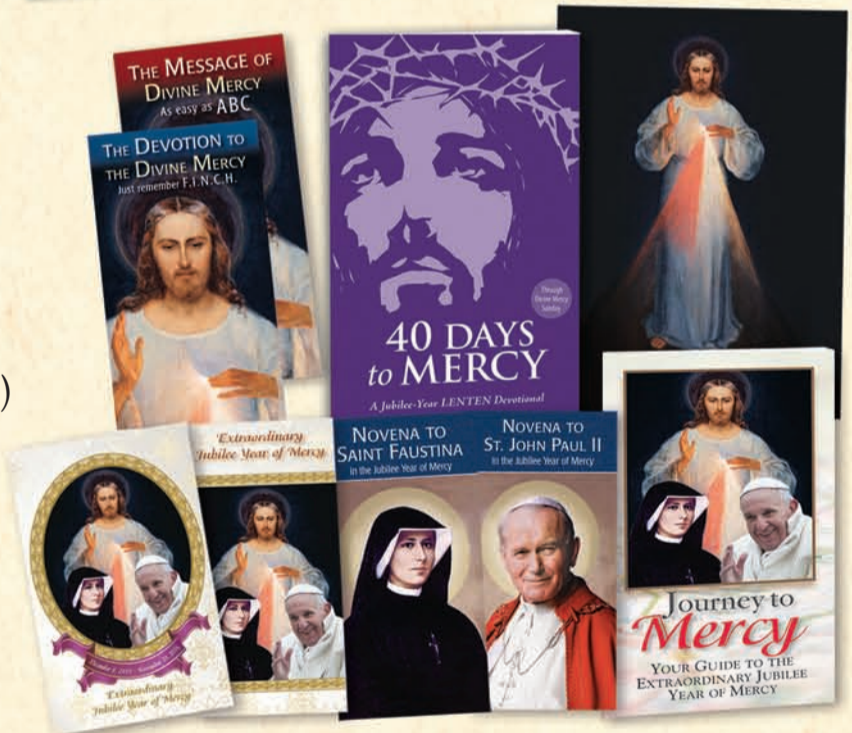
- Divine Mercy Explained booklet
- Now Is the Time For Mercy book
- Divine Mercy 101 DVD
- Pamphlets: Works of Mercy; How to Make a Good Confession; Devotion to the Divine Mercy; The Message of Divine Mercy; Father, Forgive Them
- Father, Forgive Them prayercard
- Divine Mercy Tri-Fold card



## Jubilee Year Pack

B29-JUBPK \$7.95 – if purchased separately

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- 40 Days to Mercy: A Jubilee Year Lenten Devotional booklet
- 5" x 7" Vilnius Divine Mercy Image canvas print (exclusive)
- Pamphlets: Novena to Saint Faustina; Novena to St. John Paul II; Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; Devotion to the Divine Mercy; The Message of Divine Mercy
- Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy prayercard



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These booklets give you a brief and easy-to-understand introduction to the Divine Mercy message and devotion, and highlight inspiring truths about the Divine Mercy Image.



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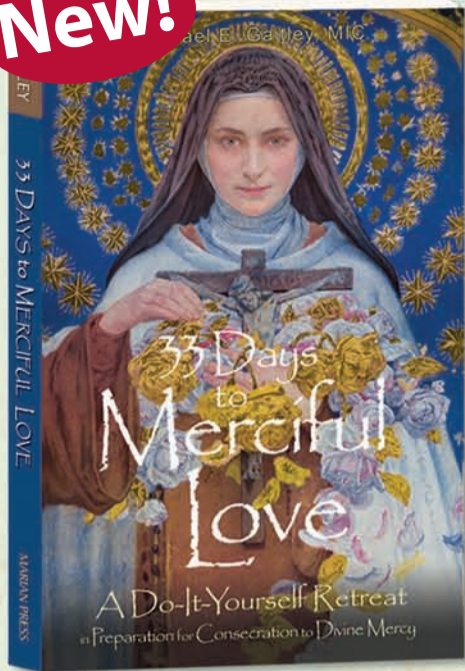
ALSO AVAILABLE AS CD: B29-NE101 • \$9.95

# Prepare for Lent and Divine Mercy Sunday

**New!**

## 33 Days to Merciful Love:

A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy



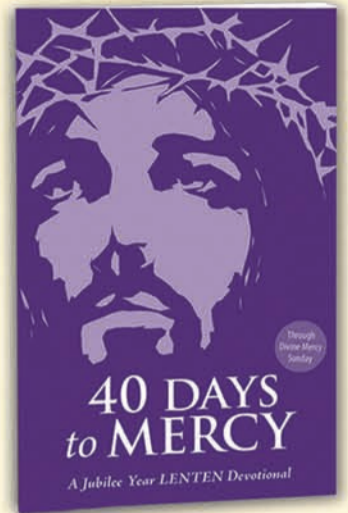
Join us in making the consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year. (See article on page 12.)

Get the consecration book *33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy*. Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Offered until March 1. Call 1-800-462-7426 or visit [marian.org/merciful](http://marian.org/merciful) or can use Product Code: B29F-33DML. (One per household. Continental U.S. only.)

To order additional copies, visit [ShopMercy.org/b29](http://ShopMercy.org/b29) and use Product Code: B29-33DML. Cost: \$14.95.

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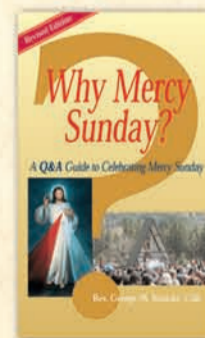
Start Lent with *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* and the *Consoling the Heart of Jesus Prayer Companion*. These books are available as a set for a limited time along with *Pausing to Pray: Lenten Meditations for Busy People*.



<b>The Image of Divine Mercy</b> B29-MPI	<b>The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy</b> B29-CDML	<b>Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet</b> B29-LFMCN	<b>How to Prepare for Mercy Sunday</b> B29-MSF	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b> B29-LFFM
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### PAMPHLET PRICING

MIN QTY.	TOTAL
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A popular Q&A booklet to the feast day. B29-WMS \$3.99

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..	15% of subtotal

From Our  
ARCHIVES

**D**ecember 8 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council. With that in mind, we dug into our vaults here at the Marian Helpers Center to find a copy of our January-March 1966 issue of the Marian Helpers Bulletin. The cover, painted and designed by a Marian, depicts the sentiments and devotion of His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, toward the Blessed Mother, whose title “Mother of the Church” was announced to the whole world in the course of the Second Vatican Council.

The following is a short reflection we found on page 11. It speaks as much to us today, during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, as it did to us 50 years ago — particularly the last paragraph!



**T**he Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky said that he found loving his neighbors an impossible Christian ideal because the more he came to know them the less lovable they were. Not impossible, we answer, but very hard. When Christ tells us to take up our Cross and follow Him, He meant the Cross of love — love of our neighbor as malformed, misinformed or deformed as he may be.

Christianity is the carrying of the Cross because it is the hardest thing in the world to love our neighbor for God’s sake and not our own. But this is why we are Christians, to love not to hate. Don’t listen to those who deride this as “do-goodism” and tell us that for a great cause any means are justified. That is the voice of Satan.

We are a great country and a great people. We have huge problems that require unity and forbearance. If you want to be a true patriot then be a good Christian by loving your neighbor — whether he be on your side or not. MH

# Live the call!



## Brother Joseph Lappe, MIC:

In 2009, I was working at a great job, but it didn't feel right. I believed God was asking me to follow Him as a religious. Mom suggested the Marians because we had seen Fr. Donald Calloway's conversion story. Then, Mom received a *Marian Helper* and sent me information about vocation retreats. I went on a retreat in Steubenville, Ohio, with Fr. Donald and found my vocation. I made my perpetual vows in Aug. 2015, and am continuing my studies for the priesthood.

## Marian Helpers Jan and Dick:

We first met the Marians more than 25 years ago at the Divine Mercy Chapel in Brookeville, Maryland. Since then, they have continually made God and spirituality come alive for us. We are so grateful for the way these priests and brothers manifest God's love and mercy in real and meaningful ways. They help us strengthen our relationship with God and one another. We are blessed to be able to support the formation of future Marian priests and brothers.

## Attend a retreat

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

The next retreats will be:

March 4-6,  
March 25-27,  
April 22-24.

## Learn more

Email: [vocations@marian.org](mailto:vocations@marian.org)

Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806

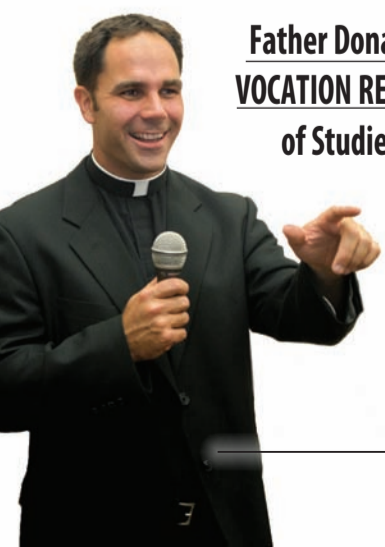
Visit: [marian.org/vocations](http://marian.org/vocations)

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

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