


Marian Helper

Spring 2020

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

marian.org



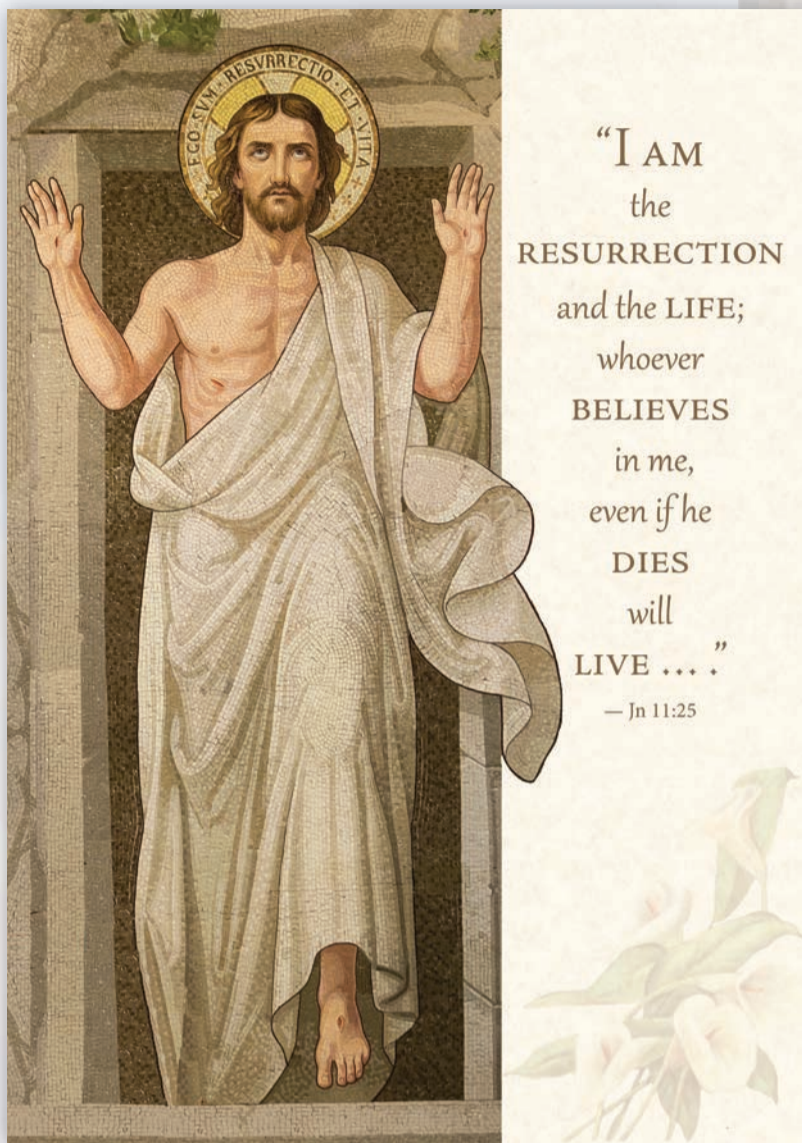
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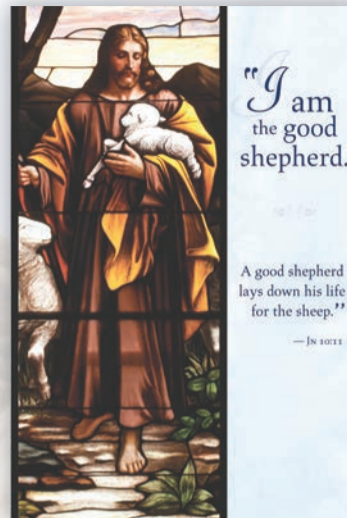
MARCH 17



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Your offering helps support the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.



Fr. Joseph explains enrollments.

In his new book, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, draws our attention to the greatest grace of all.

10 350 years!

The Marian Fathers are celebrating their anniversary with events, indulgences, and a pilgrimage.

18 The annunciations to Joseph

The unspoken response of the foster father of Jesus is a model for us all.

20 Faustina is a blockbuster

Everybody loves an underdog story. This one came out of Poland.

22 All About Mary and Divine Mercy

We came to a 5-foot-tall statue of Our Lady, and we knew we were at the right place.

24 A different picture of fatherhood

“Today, we have come to ponder fatherhood and all it means to each of us,” said Br. John Luth, MIC.

26 ‘The pinnacle of all other freedoms’

Christians are the most persecuted religious body on the planet. What can be done about it?

28 We all live in Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood

Who is your neighbor, and what do you owe them? This man had the answer.

DEPARTMENTS

3 Father Joseph Writes 4 Marian Helpers in Action 6 Faces of Mercy 8 Father Joseph’s Picks
9 Notes from Rome 31 Outstanding Helpers 33 Graces Received 36 From the Vaults

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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 © 2020 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: editorial@marian.org website: marian.org

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WHO WE ARE



Marian Helpers Center

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:
(413) 298-1119

ShrineOfDivineMercy.org

Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our
lay ministries.

marian.org/ministries

1-866-895-3236

Evangelization Team

Invite the Marians
to speak at your parish.

(413) 298-1349

parishmissions@marian.org

Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs (HAPP®)

AllHeartsAfire.org

1-844-551-3755

Intercessory Prayerline

Send us your
prayer intentions.

1-800-804-3823

marian.org/prayerline

Websites

marian.org

TheDivineMercy.org

ShopMercy.org



Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

The Marian Fathers 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 1944, the Association began as a small group of friends who believed in and supported the work of the Marian Fathers. 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.

Your enrollment means that, by a decree of the Holy See, you will now share in the graces that are extended to all our Marian Helpers. These graces include:

- A daily Mass offered for all Marian Helpers.
- A share in the 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.
- The perpetual Novena to the Divine Mercy.



You Tube



Visit marian.org/social

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION THROUGH US

*Thank you
for your
support*

- **Deepen your commitment of prayer** and support by joining one of our three spiritually nourishing prayer clubs: marian.org/clubs
- **Support a particular ministry:** marian.org/give
- **Create a memorial or tribute:** MemorialsOnEdenHill.org
- **Arrange a special gift** of stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: marian.org/PlannedGiving

Call 1-800-671-2020 to make a gift by phone or for assistance.

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. (Tax ID #20-8599030), Stockbridge, MA 01262, ___% of my adjusted gross estate (or \$_____, or a specific asset) to be used for its religious and educational purposes.

A LENT FULL OF LOVE

Lent is predominantly a time of penance, correct? Yes, in one sense, that's true. But perhaps in another, more important sense, Lent is a time of *love*.

As you will read in the cover story, this Lent we have a great opportunity to turn to love like never before thanks to the new book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John*. I'm asking Marian Helpers to use this book as a Lenten retreat, leading to our consecration to God the Father on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19.

On that day, Fr. Michael and I will read the words of a special prayer during our live broadcast on EWTN from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. All of us can then make the consecration itself at Mass that day. (Of course, if you cannot join us here on Eden Hill, you can make the consecration at whatever Mass you attend for Divine Mercy Sunday.)

In order to allow this important event to happen, we are making the book available to you at the cost of shipping and whatever donation you can afford (see details on page 16).

The culmination of Fr. Michael's trilogy of consecrations, *33 Days to Greater Glory* is certainly an antidote for what ails the Church, the world, and our own hearts.

As Fr. Michael writes, "[W]orldliness is our problem. It's the worldliness of Christians who should be a light in the darkness but who hardly shine at all. It's the

worldliness of believers who are barely different in opinion from their political party or source of daily news. It's the worldliness of clergy who should have shepherded the flock but, rather, shepherded themselves and even preyed on the sheep."

Indeed, *33 Days to Greater Glory* arrives providentially at a moment when some

members of the Church have divided into factions that call upon the rest of us to choose sides. It arrives providentially at a moment when our nation enters what may become a terribly bitter and degrading presidential election year.

Father Michael makes a powerful appeal for transcendence by means of the Gospel of John, the New Testament book written by "the apostle who rested his head on the Heart of Jesus and there discovered the deepest mysteries of the Father's love," he writes.

These difficult times demand that we turn back to the beautiful mystery of who God is and what it means to be His cherished children. They demand we be grounded in God's love so that we may, in turn, properly reorder our lives and regulate our conduct. They demand that we live by His will so that we may play active and effective roles in a world whose wellbeing requires authentic Christian witness.

This is a time for conversion, a time to humble our hearts and stay faithful to the Gospel.

This Lent, let us be reminded that we are called to be Christian, that our lives are to reflect an alternative to the sin and disorder of our times.

Let us be reminded that we, His irreplaceable and unrepeatable children, are obliged to imitate His example and be "changed into His likeness" (2 Cor 3:18). We are to rediscover that God's love for us is personal and attentive, and that our love for others is empty if it is otherwise.

This Lent, together, let's renew our hearts, renew the Church, and renew the world. Let's begin by giving in to the Father's love for us so that we may give that love to others.

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.



‘Why not me?’

Al Kresta (pictured with his wife, Sally) holds many job titles, including broadcaster, journalist, and author. But the most important, he says, is “missionary.”

Despite the tragedy of losing one of his limbs, Al Kresta, the president and CEO of Ave Maria Radio, says that he has come to experience the power of God’s Divine Mercy.

“In the Providence of God, these kinds of things come our way, but they’re used by God to equip us for wider service,” Al said.

It started back in 2003 when Al, a pioneer of Catholic radio, found himself in the midst of a spiritual trial. In fact, during a visit, Al told a friend, “I think it’s going to take some real serious suffering to break this spiritual logjam.”

Sure enough, that next Monday, Al was taken to the hospital. Doctors discovered he had necrotizing fasciitis, a flesh-eating bacterium, infecting his leg. They said they needed to amputate right away.

“I told them, ‘Wait a minute. Can’t we get a second opinion on this?’” Al said.

Doctors responded that if they didn’t start operating in the next 20 minutes he would likely die within the next few

hours. “It was right down to the wire,” Al said. “But I was as comfortable as you could be facing that. I had a strong sense of Divine Providence.”

In 1997, Domino’s Pizza founder Tom Monaghan recruited Al Kresta to launch the media apostolate Ave Maria Communications from which Ave Maria Radio began.

Ave Maria Radio produces a number of its own programs, including “Kresta in the Afternoon,” broadcast to more than 350 radio stations and Sirius Satellite on weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Eastern time.

Visit AveMariaRadio.net for more information.

After the surgery, Al was unconscious for five days. “When I came out of it, my daughter Alexis was the first one I spoke with, and she asked me, ‘Do you ask yourself, Dad, *Why me?*?’”

Al said that he didn’t.

“Why *not* me?” he said. “I’m in a position where I’ve got prayer warriors around me in my parish. I’ve got a whole listenership praying for me. I’ve got a family that’s close. I’ve got great medical help. I’m not like some Civil War corporal having his leg sawed off in some tent in a septic area.”

When Al came back to consciousness, he realized that God had spared him. “I knew that there was something He was going to be doing through this. ... It was a great grace. I don’t want to say this is going to happen to everybody,” Al said. “I was spared and part of that being spared was that this did not seem like a random, chaotic event, even though we had no idea where

that bacteria came from. [This illness] was invested with meaning from the beginning.”

In the hospital, by his bedside, Al’s daughter read to him from Pope St. John Paul II’s apostolic letter *Salvifici Doloris (The Christian Meaning of Suffering)*. “We talked about Divine Mercy. We talked about what God was doing in this whole thing. What I had been spared for, what am I now free to do, and it was helpful,” Al said. “I had this sense that this was a case of divine discipline, that the Father was loving me and squeezing me.”

This wasn’t the first time the Lord had disciplined Al through illness.

Back in 1982, he had suffered from a serious clinical depression that went on for three years. “I was hospitalized twice for it. That’s how severe it was,” he said. “So losing my leg was really, by comparison, not much of anything. Losing my leg is not a good thing. But you know, I am still pretty much who I am. The depression was like losing your soul. ... It was like the nerve — the nerve by which we can experience faith, hope, and love — was cut. It was snapped. It was like it had been amputated. It was a very dark time.”

In May of 1985, Al stepped out of that darkness after spending time at the Abbey of Gethsemane in Bardstown, Kentucky, where author Thomas Merton had lived as a Trappist monk. One year after Al overcame his depression, he started working in faith-based radio, and that’s where he’s been ever since. “That was another one of those times when I think the Lord was doing something that had to happen in order for me to become more fruitful,” Al said.

Al also served as a pastor at a non-denominational church for several years until he reverted to Catholicism in the early 1990s.

“We’re living in a world which is incredibly fast-paced, where information goes around the globe in a millisecond. People are growing increasingly defensive,” Al said. “Mercy is one of those qualities nobody talks about. It’s not part of our national or international discourse anymore. In a way, it’s the building block, the building block which the builders rejected that becomes the cornerstone of the whole new world. It sneaks in unknown, and all of a sudden it embodies love, it embodies an awareness of justice. It’s intensely transactional and personal. It opens people up to an experience of an encounter with Jesus, who, in fact, is the mercy of the Father given to us.”

MH

— Marc Massery

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Marian Fathers are on the move, evangelizing. Come and see:

ARIZONA

March 6-7, Carefree — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

CALIFORNIA

March 2-4, Palm Desert — Lenten Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Br. Jason Lewis, MIC.

March 13-14, Mission Viejo — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

FLORIDA

Feb. 8, Fort Myers — Men’s Conference, with Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC.

Feb. 21-22, Indialantic — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

March 2-4, Clearwater — Divine Mercy Lenten Mission, with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

March 9-11, St. Pete Beach — Divine Mercy Lenten Mission, with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

March 16-18, Lake City — Divine Mercy Lenten Mission, with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

March 23-25, Clermont — Divine Mercy Lenten Mission, with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

GEORGIA

March 21, Atlanta — Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

March 22-24, Peachtree City — Lenten Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

KENTUCKY

April 24-25, Edgewood — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

NORTH CAROLINA

April 3-4, Winston-Salem — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

OHIO

Feb. 15, Columbus — Women’s Conference, with Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC.

March 15-17, St. Marys — Lenten Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

OKLAHOMA

March 29-31, Bartlesville — Lenten Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Feb. 17-19, Mt. Pleasant — Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

TENNESSEE

Feb. 14-15, Memphis — Mercy & Mary Retreat, with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

TEXAS

Feb. 22, Weslaco — 10th Annual Divine Mercy Conference, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

UTAH

Feb. 16-18, Park City — Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

WISCONSIN

March 8-10, Oconomowoc — Lenten Divine Mercy Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.

March 15-18, Kenosha — The Triumph: A Parish Mission, with Fr. David Gunter, MIC.

Subject to change. Visit marian.org/events for more information and a complete list.

MH

FACES OF MERCY



Father Raymond Schock

Diocese of Toledo, Ohio

When I visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy with a group of 48 pilgrims, I was taking pictures with my phone of the beautiful angels at the doorway of the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. All of a sudden, my phone battery went down. It had no more power left. It was dead. I asked [my fellow pilgrims] if there was a charger I could use so I could take more pictures, but they didn't have one.

I figured I'd have to take pictures some other time. So, I put my phone in my pocket, and I went up and prayed the Stations of the Cross. I came up to the Third Station (Jesus falls for the first time), and I heard "ping, ping, ping." I thought, "Where's this coming from?" It was my phone. I was embarrassed because I always tell people to turn off their cell phones. I thought it was dead. It flustered me. I was just praying the Our Father at that particular Station. I tried to get my phone and put it on silent, so I just reached for it to push the button. It didn't turn off, though. It was still going, so I pulled it out as we started the Hail Mary. I looked at it, and then I remembered: I had set a timer to go off at 11:05 a.m. every Tuesday, with the words "Dad's passing." My dad had died exactly three weeks earlier on Oct. 22, the Feast of St. John Paul II. We had prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary right before Dad died. So when I pulled out my phone and I saw what it said, I just thought, "Wow."

After the Stations, I shared with everyone, "I need to let you know why my phone was making all that noise." One of the things my dad always told me before I went back to my parish, he would say, "You make sure you take care of those people." Those were always his last words. This experience was like him reminding me to make sure I take care of those people. Here at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, even as a priest I need to be reminded of "Jesus, I trust in You" and about His promise of eternal life. God had given me a beautiful sign in the midst of this holy place.

Antonio Antonucci

Longmeadow, Massachusetts

I'm 13 years old, and I'm in eighth grade at St. John the Baptist School in Ludlow, Massachusetts. My religion teacher, Sr. Jeanne, had a project for us called "Pay it forward." She gave us \$10, and I saved up a lot of money, and my dad's friend helped me, too. I chose to donate it to the Marians, because I've been coming here [to the National Shrine] since I was a kid, and I love the message of Divine Mercy. We're supposed to give money and take a picture. My teacher was talking about how we're supposed to meet the people we donate to because charity is all about a relationship. We talk to the people and get to know the charity and what they do. I like that it's welcoming here, and it's very peaceful up here in the mountains. The Marians have great Masses here and great priests.





Bernard and Janet Watruba Fremont, Ohio

Bernard: We say the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day as well as the Rosary. Somewhere I read that you should say the Chaplet when there's a storm coming to your town. We have actually experienced the storm splitting and going around our town. It was so cool.

Janet: We've prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet with people who are dying. We've had times when our kids were having issues in storms or whatever, and the grandkids would say, "Call Grandma and Grandpa, and tell them to start praying that prayer!" which they knew was the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We have 18 grandchildren, but we don't have kids together. We're both on our second marriages [following annulments]. Bernard has four sons, and I have three daughters. We met when they were ages 3 to 14. We met at a church meeting for the divorced and separated. We've been married since 1986.

Bernard: I was pretty broken up after my separation, because I didn't want the divorce. One thing I learned in my counseling, the priest told me that the biggest cause of second marriage problems is the kids from each other's previous marriages. So right off the get-go, you have to take care of the other kids, too.

Janet: We have seven children, and not all of them are deep in their faith, but they all look up to us. Our three daughters have always told us that they tell their husbands they want a marriage like ours. [Bernard and I] had a beautiful courtship — one that Christians, I believe, are supposed to have. Bernard sent me a card every day during the first month he met me. Every day. I don't know how he did that! We dated almost two years before we got married. He still opens the car door for me.

Bernard: I believe you have to continue courting. I think we're more in love than we ever have been, and it's through our faith — and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is a very big part of it. Marriage takes three.

MH

— Marc Massery

Oh, mercy!

Preparations have begun for the annual Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend celebration on April 18-19, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

If you can't travel to the Shrine, you can view the celebration live on EWTN. The show begins at noon (Eastern) on Sunday, April 19, followed by the Solemn Liturgy at 1 p.m.

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

On Saturday morning, the Marian Fathers will host their annual Mercy Weekend Conference, featuring Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Br. Jason Lewis, MIC. The theme is "Peace in Times of Suffering and Loss." Check-in for the conference on Saturday begins at 9 a.m. The conference will run from 10 a.m. to noon. General admission is \$15 (bag lunch included). Admission is free for members of the Thirteenth of the Month Club, Friends of Mercy, and the Holy Souls Sodality. Visit TheDivineMercy.org/mwc or call 1-800-462-7426 to register.

Throughout the weekend, tents will be set up on Eden Hill for Confessions, Adoration, and the Divine Mercy Gift Shop. Due to the unpredictable spring weather in the Berkshires, pilgrims are advised to dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes with traction.

The Marians need volunteers to help make Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend a success.

"If it weren't for volunteers, we'd never be able to host this wonderful weekend," said Shrine Rector Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC.

This year, the Shrine has a particular need for volunteers in the areas of parking, ushers, crowd control, Adoration, and the gift shop, among other positions.

Father Anthony said, "I think the passage from St. Faustina's Diary that says, 'Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant' (1075) applies to anyone who volunteers for Divine Mercy Sunday."

To volunteer, please contact Peter Markavage at volunteers@marian.org or call 413-298-1114.

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/celebrate for more about the feast.

MH

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b45 or call 1-800-462-7426.

As we dive into Lent, let's plan to dedicate some time to spiritual reading and viewing, renewing our minds so that we can better love and serve the Divine Mercy and Mary Immaculate. Here are some great resources to help you do that.



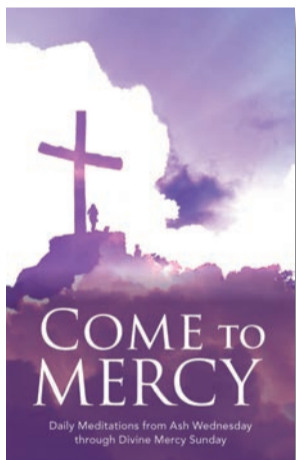
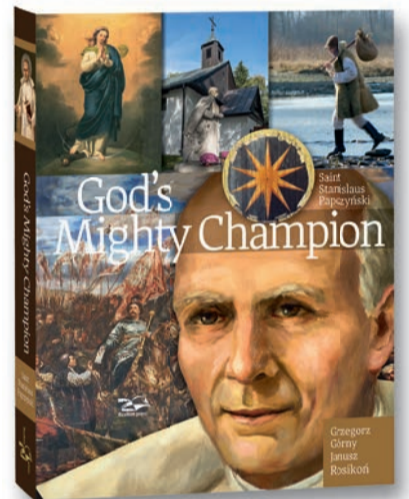
LOVE AND MERCY DVD

Bringing together some of the world's leading experts on the Divine Mercy message and devotion, this ground-breaking docudrama invites you into the life and mystical experiences of St. Faustina Kowalska like never before. Including new insights and terrific stories of how the spark of Divine Mercy traveled out of Poland to reach the whole world, this DVD will inform and inspire a new generation of Divine Mercy apostles, all walking in the footsteps of St. Faustina. \$16.95. **B45-LAMDVD**

GOD'S MIGHTY CHAMPION

By GRZEGORZ GORNY AND JANUSZ ROSIKON

Saint Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), Founder of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, has had an enormous influence on Poland, the Catholic Church, and the entire world. Now, author Grzegorz Gorny and photographer Janus Rosikon have brought that legacy to life in *God's Mighty Champion*, an illustrated biography of the patron saint of those in mortal danger. Gorgeously illustrated, richly detailed, this book belongs in the home of every Marian Helper. 288 pages. \$24.95. **B45-PAPBK**

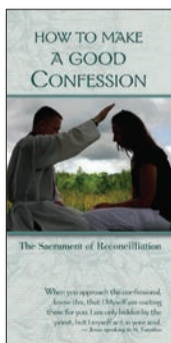


COME TO MERCY: DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY THROUGH DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

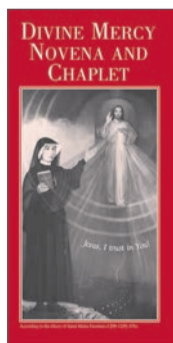
A little different than most Lenten devotionals, *Come to Mercy* doesn't end on Easter Sunday. It carries you through Easter Week to the great Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday. Prepare your heart with these meditations, packed with thought-provoking content using everyday examples. Each day also references related passages from St. Faustina's *Diary*. Ideal for Divine Mercy devotees! 64 pages. \$6.95. **B45-LD20**



B45-MPI



B45-HGCPF



B45-LFMCN



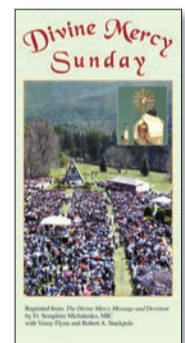
B45-DMMR



B45-MPL2



B45-MSF



B45-LFFM

PAMPHLET PRICING

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

DIVINE MERCY PAMPHLETS

Lent prepares us to celebrate Easter, and Divine Mercy Sunday is the culmination of the Easter Octave. Help your family and your parish more fruitfully celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday by sharing these pamphlets with them.



'SHE LOVED JESUS'

Our Lord called my dear mother, Kathleen, home on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Nov. 24. Through her death, I learned some lessons about God's mercy and His Divine Providence.

My parents were lifelong New Yorkers, but they had gone to live with my sister Clare and her husband, Joe, in Florida around two-and-a-half years ago. Dad died on March 8, 2019 at the age of 94. They had been inseparable for over 60 years, so we knew that it was only a matter of time before Mom would follow Dad. At 92, her health had been declining, and she was placed in hospice care in October. She was bedridden and had various other difficulties. My sister Clare told me that Mom kept asking when I was coming. She had a sense that maybe Mom was trying to tell us something. I flew from Rome to Florida on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. My other sister, Ann Marie, had arrived on Tuesday. Mom was gone by Sunday. She had been waiting for us to come so that she could let go.

She loved Jesus with all her heart. She had spent her whole life preparing to meet Him. She and my father had gone to Mass daily for most of their adult lives. When Mom and Dad got married, she had three sets of initials engraved on her ring: hers, my father's, and J.C. for Jesus Christ. He was an integral part of their marriage from the beginning. A few years ago, my father underwent a six-hour operation on his hip. My mother spent the time praying in a tiny chapel in the hospital before the tabernacle and an Image of the Divine Mercy. At the end, she prayed, "Oh Jesus, I wish I loved you more!" She felt as if Jesus replied in her heart, "Anyone who spends six hours with Me, loves Me!"

I was able to offer Mass in Mom's room each day on her last weekend. At the Mass on the day she died, at the end of the Gospel, Jesus says from the Cross, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." My sister thought that I had picked out that reading



Two inspirational Marian Helpers: my parents, William and Kathleen Roesch.

especially for Mom. But God had picked the reading, the day, and the hour. He called her home on that night. I had been born on the Solemnity of Christ the King when it was celebrated as the last Sunday in October before the change in the liturgical calendar. My mom had gone into labor on Saturday night, and it lasted until my birth at 3 a.m. on the

solemnity. My mom was thrilled that I had been born on that feast day.

We had a beautiful funeral Mass in their home parish on Staten Island where they had lived for 52 years. Eight priests were at the altar, and it seemed that Heaven and Earth met for that celebration. As her casket came out of the church and I sprinkled it with holy water, I remembered that Mom had donated a paving stone to the Church. I looked down and discovered that I was standing on it. It said, "Thanks be to God for His love and great mercy to us. Kathleen & William Roesch & family."

God had arranged for me to be present when Mom died, and He wished to show us that she was with us in a new way. May she and all of our beloved deceased rest in peace!





350 YEAR JUBILEE
of the MARIAN FATHERS
1670 - 2020

350 YEARS!

Jubilee to include pilgrimage, events, and indulgences

To underscore its indebtedness to its past and its obligations to the present and future, the Marian Fathers on Dec. 8 launched a four-year-long Jubilee celebration of the 350th anniversary of their founding.

The Marian Fathers are planning events for each of the years — some geared toward Marian priests and brothers and others to Marian Helpers. Plenary indulgences are available at Marian locations worldwide, including at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers are all being urged to recommit themselves to serve Christ and His Church, to inspire conversions, to evangelize through witness, and to live more deeply the spirituality of the religious Congregation.

This year, Dec. 11, will mark 350 years since St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701) — a Polish priest, mystic,

preacher, and writer who staked his life upon the mystery of the Immaculate Conception — made what's known as his *Oblatio*, offering himself to God and to the Blessed Mother and professing his intention to found the Marian Fathers.

In a letter to his confreres, the Marian Fathers' Superior General the Most Rev. Fr. Andrew Pakula, MIC, said, "I trust that our celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the origin of our religious community will contribute to the renewal of our faith and our personal bond with the Lord who called us; to the deepening of our identity and the awareness of our charism; to our giving witness to who we are and to the purpose of our existence in the Church; to our rediscovering what Christ and His Immaculate Mother, our Patroness, mean to us; to strengthening our bonds with our holy Father Founder, St. Stanislaus, who — always obedient to the Holy Spirit — gave rise to

our religious community.”

Each year of the Jubilee will have a special theme: “Consecrated for Christ and the Church” (2020); “In the School of the Immaculate Conception of Mary” (2021); “On the Paschal Path” (2022); and “On the Charismatic Mission” (2023).

For professed members of the Marian Fathers, the Jubilee will include international and regional seminars and monthly days of recollection. Marian Helpers and Confraternity members are invited to attend the International Congress of Lay Associates on Sept. 23-27, in Lichen, Poland, followed by a weeklong pilgrimage to various locations in Poland and Lithuania that are key to the Marians’ history and the history of the Divine Mercy movement (see below).

The Apostolic Penitentiary has granted the opportunity to obtain plenary indulgences (the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin) during the Jubilee at two Marian locations in the United States: the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and the Divine Mercy Chapel at Marian Assisted Living in Brookeville, Maryland. The indulgences are available on a daily basis under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father), combined with a prayer for the Congregation of Marian Fathers or a prayer through the intercession of St. Stanislaus.

To help the lay faithful participate more fully in the Marian Fathers’ spirituality, the Marians are also putting special emphasis this Jubilee on promoting the Confrater-

nity of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Stanislaus himself encouraged his spiritual sons to establish confraternities. To learn more, visit marian.org/confraternity; email confraternity@marian.org; or call 1-800-462-7426.

The Jubilee will close on Dec. 8, 2023, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Congregation’s titular feast day. That year will mark the 350th anniversary of the approval of the Marian Fathers’ first religious house, in Poland’s Korabiew Forest, today called Marian Forest (*Puszcza Marianska*).

The Jubilee motto is *Ad Honorem Immaculatae Conceptionis Mariae* (“In Honor of the Immaculate Conception of Mary”). Indeed, just as the mystery of the Immaculate Conception serves as the essence of the Marian Fathers’ charism, entrustment to Mary Immaculate serves as a defining element of the Jubilee itself.

A full 184 years before the Church declared the Immaculate Conception an official dogma, St. Stanislaus professed: “I believe everything that the holy Roman Church believes, but first of all I profess that the Most Holy Mother of God, Mary, was conceived without any stain of original sin.”

Today, Marian priests and brothers serving in 20 countries and Marian Helpers around the world make St. Stanislaus’ frequently repeated prayer their own: “May the Virgin Mary’s Immaculate Conception be our health and our protection.”

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JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF STS. STANISLAUS, FAUSTINA, AND JOHN PAUL II

Sept. 25-Oct. 6



LICHEN



CZESTOCHOWA



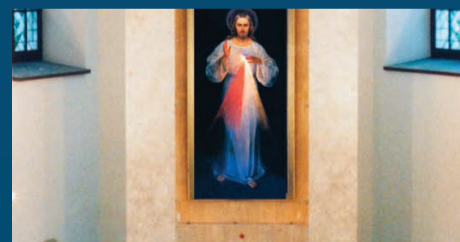
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Led by the Very Rev. Kaz Chwalek, MIC
and Fr. Chris Alar, MIC

For more information and to sign up,
call 413-298-1116 or visit marian.org/pilgrimages



In 2016, you “helped save the world.”

Now, in 2020, let's ...



HELP SAVE THE CHURCH

“**H**elp save the Church.” That’s the invitation I hear while reading the new Marian Press book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, titled *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John.*

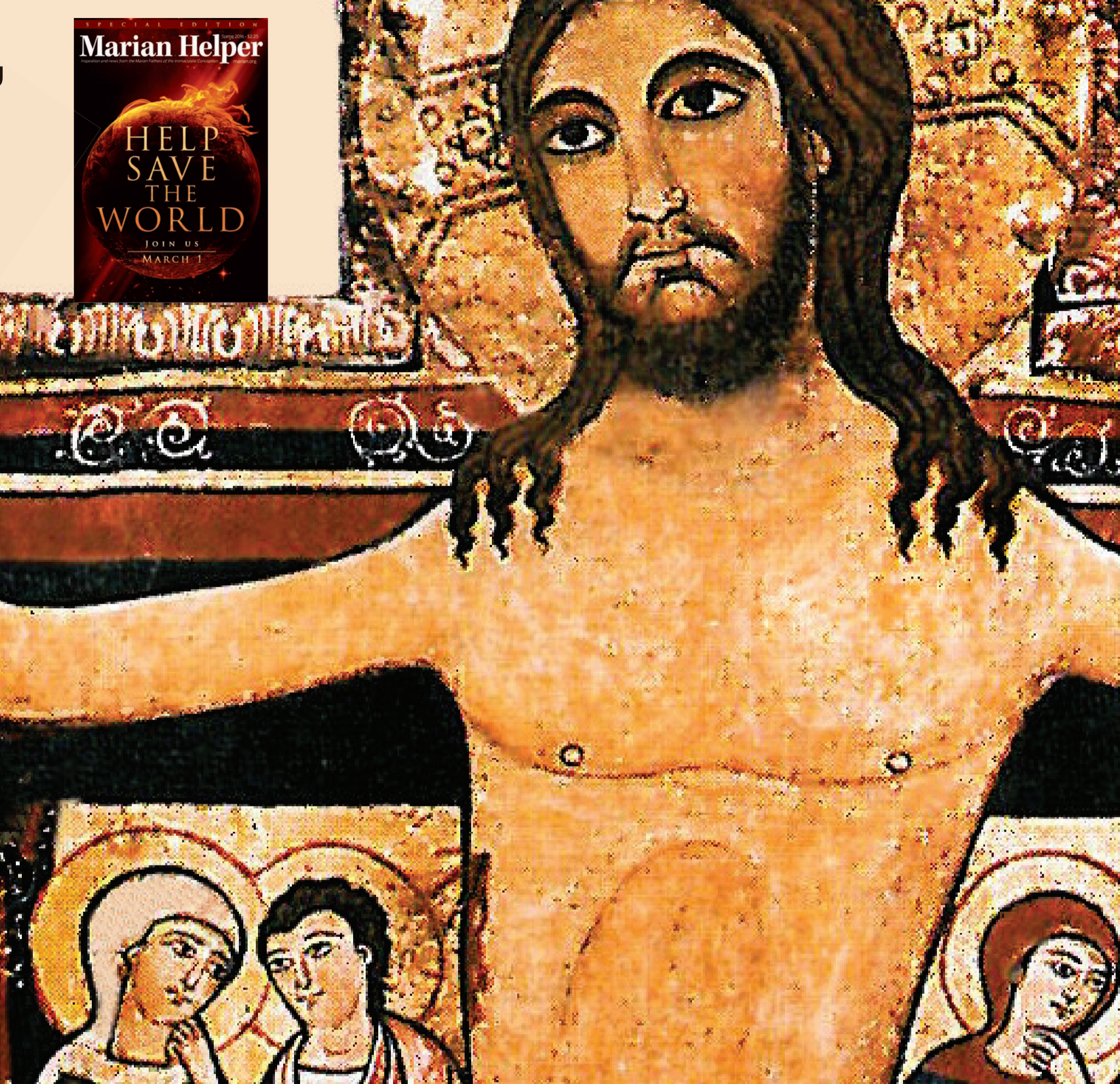
But wait. Isn’t the Church already saved? Isn’t the Church what saves *us*? To answer these questions, let’s look at one of the most important events in all of Church history.

‘Rebuild My House’

It was the spring of 1206. A young man had recently left a life of revelry and dissipation to serve the poor and those rejected by society.

One day, while praying in an old abandoned chapel, he heard the Lord say to him from the Cross, “Go rebuild My House, which is falling into ruin.”

The future St. Francis of Assisi proceeded to repair the



crumbling chapel, but he later went on to bring renewal to the entire Catholic Church, whose leaders at the time had largely become corrupted by power and wealth and, in turn, led many of their flock into spiritual ruin.

This gets to what it means to help save the Church.

It's not that the Church as the immaculate source of grace needs any saving. Rather, as St. Bonaventure put it, commenting on the Lord's words to St. Francis, it has to do with "that which Christ purchased with His own blood." In other words, the call of Christ today, "Rebuild My Church," is meant to help save the Church as the Body of Christ —

namely, the fallen, human members of that Body, the baptized, who are again falling into spiritual ruin.

Not what we think

Just as St. Francis mistook the Lord's words, we often mistake the call to renewal in our time. For instance, if we listen to too much Catholic gossip, we may think that the problems in the Church really have to do with this or that bishop or with this or that group — *those other people*.

Well, when we fill ourselves with more gossip than prayer, when we define ourselves by our shared grievances and

hatreds rather than our shared purposes and affections, when we become “tribal” rather than “communal,” we, indeed, may fall prey to false prophets — those who appeal to hardened hearts by means of overly simplistic solutions and over-the-top outrage. We may become convinced of the lie that the Church’s problems come down to only “those other people.”

But let’s not kid ourselves. The *main* problem in the Church is not just this or that bishop or this or that group. A *major* problem is also *us*. Do we love? Do we love as the Father loves?

This is where we need to start: with ourselves. And more specifically, we need to start with the firm commitment to strive to become saints.

Why? Because that’s what the Church needs. It needs people who are committed to love. It needs people who put love first. It needs people who choose love. The Church needs true and authentic Christians who witness to the truth that

God is Love, who accept the Father’s mercy, and who humbly feel obliged to extend that mercy to everyone, even when it’s most difficult.

So let me put it this way: Just as God used St. Francis to rebuild the Church in the 13th century through authentic Christian witness, I believe He also wants to use us Marian Helpers to rebuild the Church in the 21st century — which gives me an idea.

You ‘Helped Save the World’

Exactly four years ago, on the cover of our spring issue of *Marian Helper* magazine, I made a dramatic appeal to you: “Help Save the World.” Specifically, in that Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, 2016, I invited you to join me in making a consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday using Fr. Michael’s book *33 Days to Merciful Love*, which we gave away for any donation.

I’ll never forget two things from that appeal.

Join us on retreat



Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, and our newest Marian priest, Fr. James Devine, MIC, invite you to come on a retreat!

From June through October they will be leading small groups in the spirituality of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, a spirituality geared especially for laypeople that is based on and inspired by the charism of the Marian Fathers.

The retreats are ideal for those who have attended a Mercy & Mary Parish Retreat, participated in a Hearts Afire program, or who have enjoyed Fr. Gaitley’s books.

First, your response. In its many decades of operation, the Marian Helpers Center has never seen anything like it. Our phone lines melted down — twice. So many of you called, asking for the book, that we ran out of them, had to reprint them, and had more than 60,000 of you join us for the consecration live on the air during our EWTN Divine Mercy Sunday broadcast around the world.

The second thing I'll never forget is what happened during that broadcast. If you watched it, you'll surely remember it, too. The day saw terrible weather: snow, sleet, bitterly cold wind. Then, literally as we were reciting the consecration prayer, the sun came out. Seeing this, many of you wrote to us, commenting on it. I certainly noticed it, and I took that dramatic change of weather as a sign that God had accepted our consecration to Divine Mercy that day and poured out an abundance of grace on the Church and the whole world.

So this brings me to my idea.

My brother Marian priest, Fr. Michael, has just finished another consecration book that he says is, by far, his favorite. It's my favorite, too. So here's what I decided to do: I'm going to make the same offer we made four years ago, but this time with his new book, *33 Days to Greater Glory*.

Let me tell you why I want to do this.

Saints in the time of mercy

I said before that the problem in the Church is a lack of saints. And how do we become saints? Well, if you're anything like me, the idea of becoming a saint can seem pretty intimidating. But one of the great truths about our faith is that each one of us truly can become a saint. Father Gaitley gives us hope by pointing out the powerful graces God is giving us in the "time of mercy," as St. John Paul II called it, which we're experiencing now as a Church because we need it so much (see Rom 5:20).

Now, one of the graces that helps us become saints in



Accommodations are available at the beautiful Federal House Inn in Lee, Massachusetts (above).

During your stay, you'll have an opportunity to meet the Marian Missionary community just across the street, visit their farm, and enjoy peace and quiet in their private chapel at the historic Merrell Inn. Also, because the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy is just up the road, you'll surely want to visit there, too!

To learn more, please email Hospitality@marian.org

Hurry, because availability is limited!

MH

this time of mercy is Marian consecration, which St. Louis de Montfort calls the “quickest and easiest way to become a saint.” That’s a devotion that many of you have already taken up using Fr. Gaitley’s book *33 Days to Morning Glory*.

Another great grace that can help us to become saints is the modern message of Divine Mercy, which comes to us most powerfully through Sts. Faustina Kowalska and Thérèse of Lisieux, which is what *33 Days to Merciful Love* was all about. But there’s another great grace that we have as Catholics — the greatest grace, really. That grace is the focus of *33 Days to Greater Glory*.

Greater mercy through greater glory

Of course, that great grace is the Mass. Now, as you know, there are two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy

The second main part of the Mass is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Treating this topic in the context of the Gospel of John, *33 Days to Greater Glory* really soars. It reveals that, through the Mass, especially at the moment of the Concluding Doxology, we have the opportunity to renew our most fundamental consecration: namely, our consecration to God the Father.

A consecration to God the Father? You may have never heard of that. But in his book, Fr. Gaitley states that all other such consecrations originate from — and lead back to — that specific consecration. He says it’s the most important consecration, the consecration that begins with our Baptism and that we can confirm, renew, and deepen at every Mass.

The book *33 Days to Greater Glory* helps us to do this.

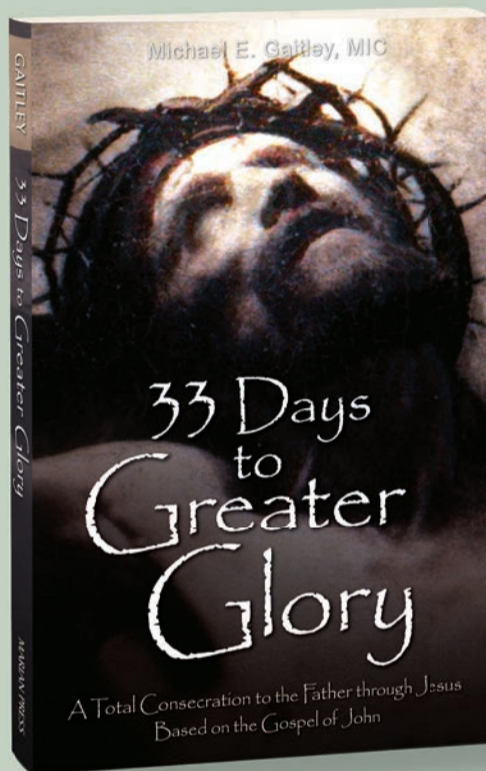
All right, so let me tell you how to proceed.

Here’s what to do

Please join me in making the consecration to God the Father on Divine Mercy Sunday this year.

✓ Get the consecration book *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John*. Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Offered until March 17. Visit marian.org/GreaterGlory or call 1-800-462-7426 and please use product code B45F-33DGG. (One per household. Continental U.S. only.)

✓ Begin the consecration on March 17 so that you can complete the consecration on April 19 — Divine Mercy Sunday!



My invitation to you

Starting on March 17, the memorial of St. Patrick of Ireland, please join me in making a 33-day preparation to consecrate yourself to our Merciful Father on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Ultimately, we’ll make the consecration itself at the Mass on that great day, but we’re also going to make a special prayer together during the EWTN broadcast preceding the Mass. By renewing our consecration to God our Father, I believe that our Father in

of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Father Gaitley’s new book focuses on both.

Let’s start with the Liturgy of the Word.

To become saints in our modern world, we need to take time to put aside the word of men — so much noise, information, and distraction — and immerse ourselves in the Word of God. Of course, that’s not an easy task, but *33 Days to Greater Glory* has actually made it easy.

Essentially, the book is a commentary on what many saints call the greatest book in the entire Bible, namely, the *Gospel of John*. Over the course of 33 days, it takes you step-by-step through that marvelous Gospel that, admittedly, is not always easy to understand. But believe it or not, Fr. Gaitley actually has made it much easier to grasp. And not only that: He’s also included a free way that we can listen to the whole Gospel, so we’ll be immersed in the Word of God as we go through the retreat.

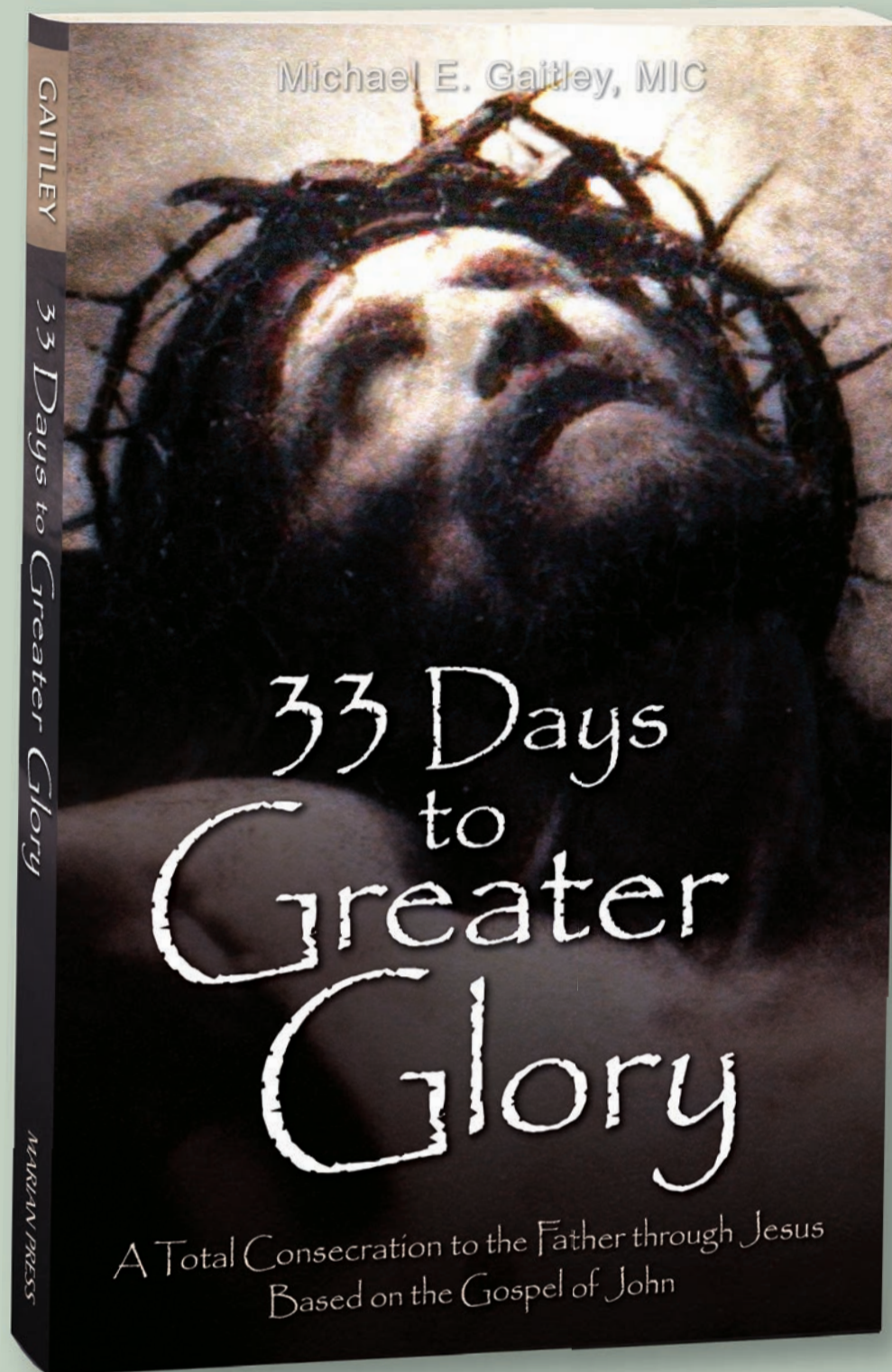
Heaven, through the suffering, death, and Resurrection of His dearly beloved Son, truly will have mercy on us, on the whole world, and also on the Church, which needs it so much right now.

And what, specifically, is that great mercy? It’s that the members of the Church would be filled with greater love for others — a love that begins with us.

If you’d like to join Fr. Gaitley and me in making that consecration on Divine Mercy Sunday, I’m renewing the same offer I made back in 2016.

Specifically, for any donation plus shipping, up until March 17, 2020, we will give you a free copy of *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John*. I hope you’ll join me and make this event even bigger than three years ago, and that your enthusiasm will make us have to “rebuild our phone lines,” which I’m sure your phone calls will be “bringing down to ruin.” MH

Get the final
installment
of the trilogy



Start: March 17 - Consecrate: Divine Mercy Sunday!

33 Days to Greater Glory

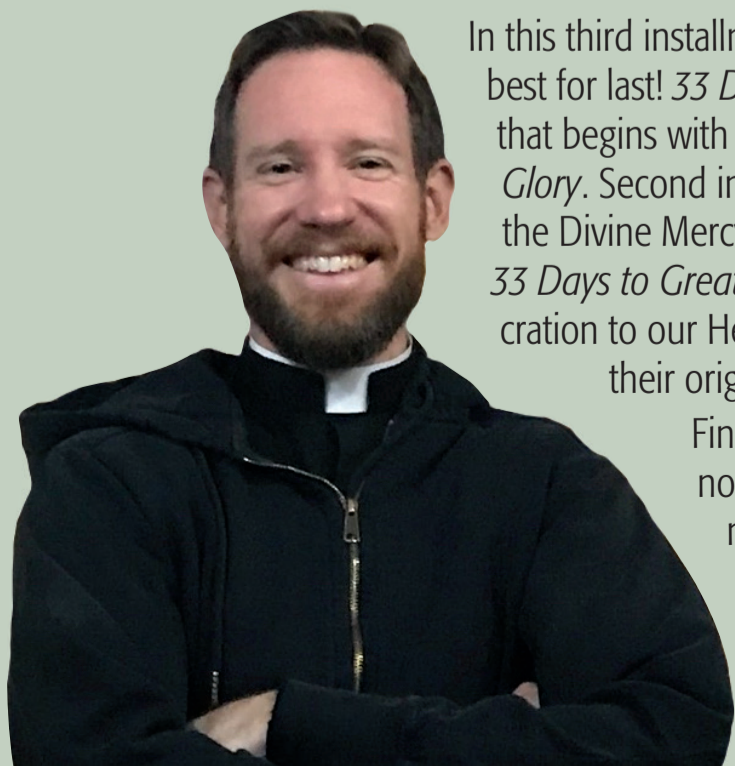
A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John

By Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

In this third installment of his 33-day consecration series, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, has saved the best for last! *33 Days to Greater Glory* stands as the culmination of a trilogy of consecrations that begins with the massively popular manual of Marian entrustment, *33 Days to Morning Glory*. Second in the series is *33 Days to Merciful Love*, because Mary always leads us to Jesus, the Divine Mercy. Finally, because Jesus wants to bring us home to the Father, we arrive at *33 Days to Greater Glory*. And this really is a case of saving the best for last, because a consecration to our Heavenly Father truly is the *greater* consecration, the one in which all others find their origin and end.

Finally, as a bonus, Fr. Gaitley has also included his popular and easy-to-use novena of consecration to St. Joseph, *Nine Days to Joseph*, which helps us enter more fully into the Fatherhood of God. Paperback, 224 pages.

B45-33DGG \$15.95



The annunciations to Joseph

His life ‘speaks’
a complete and
unbroken ‘*fiat*’

By Vinny Flynn

When we hear the word “annunciation,” we tend to think of Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel announces to her that, of all the women ever created, she is the promised virgin, chosen to give birth to the Messiah, the Son of God. We think of her *fiat* (“Let it be done”), whereby she surrendered to God her whole being — her heart, her mind, her body, her soul — and thus participated, in the most unique way imaginable, in the new creation and redemption of the world through her Son.

There has never been a more important announcement or a more complete “yes” to God. This was the “yes” spoken aloud so that it could resound through the universe for all time; the “yes” spoken not only for herself, but for us all; the “yes” that initiated God’s second creation. In the first creation, God spoke, “Let there be light,” and there was light; so, in the second creation, Mary spoke, “Let it be done” (Lk 1:38), and the Light of the World became flesh.

But, “in the fullness of time” (Gal 4:4) when God the Father chose to send His Son into the world to fulfill His plan of mercy, He kept His angels pretty busy. Before the Annunciation to Mary, Gabriel had also appeared to Zechariah; and later there were various other angelic announcements: to the shepherds, to the Magi, and, in several instances, to Joseph.

The accounts of the annunciations to Joseph are especially significant because they present us with a powerful (and challenging) example. Unlike Mary, Joseph wasn’t being asked to speak aloud on behalf of the world. He wasn’t being asked to participate in a new creation. He was simply being told what God



wanted him to do, and his unspoken response is a model for us all.

He doesn't "say" *fiat*. He says nothing. He simply does exactly what he's told — immediately and unquestioningly. He is a man whose life "speaks" a complete and unbroken *fiat*. Let's take a look.

After Mary's Annunciation, when she was found to be with child, an unnamed angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him not to be afraid. A similar encouragement not to fear also was given to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds, but in this case the fear is specified. Joseph is told not to be afraid to "take Mary as his wife" (Mt 1:20). Unlike Zechariah, who asked for proof ("How will I know that this is so?" in Luke 1:18), and unlike Mary, who asked for more information so that she could understand ("How will this come to be?" in Luke 1:34), Joseph asked nothing. He simply "did as the angel commanded him." He "took her as his wife" (Mt 1:24). We are told that this took place "to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet" (Mt 1:22).

Later, when Herod was about to order the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem, "an angel" appeared to Joseph "in a dream," and told him, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt and remain there until I tell you" (Mt 2:13). These are very specific directives, and Joseph's response is an exact fulfillment of each detail. Did he doubt or ask questions? No. He "got up, took the child ... went to Egypt, and remained there" (Mt 2:14-15), "to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet" (Mt 2:15).

After Herod died, once again "an angel" appeared "in a dream" to Joseph, this time in Egypt. Again the directives were very specific: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel" (Mt 2:19-20). Joseph "got

up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel" (Mt 2:21).

When he was leaving for Israel, having heard that Herod's son Archelaus was ruling Judea, Joseph was afraid to return there. But God didn't leave him in fear. He was "warned in a dream" and thus went to Galilee and made his home in Nazareth "so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled ..." (Mt 2:23).

The picture Matthew gives us of Joseph is of a man who always instantly obeys. He doesn't doubt. He simply does

exactly what he is told to do, prefiguring his spouse's later proclamation at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you." And because of his immediate and complete obedience, God's will is fulfilled. At Cana, Mary could very accurately have said, "Imitate my husband, Joseph, and do whatever God tells you."

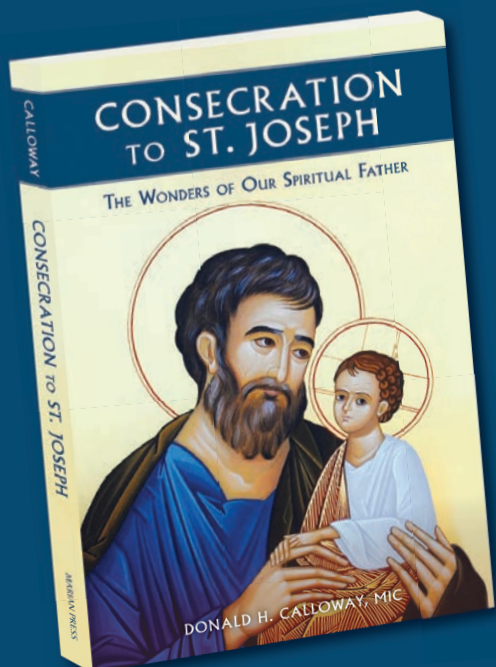
Jesus told us, "The kingdom of God is within you" (Lk 17:21), and He told us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" (Mt 6:10).

The Kingdom of God is indeed within Joseph. In Joseph's mind and heart, God is king, and He rules there. Joseph, like Mary, is the servant of the king, and his *fiat*, though unspoken, is immediate and complete. Thus, he participates fully in God's plan. God's will can be done, because in Joseph His Kingdom has come.

Joseph shows us that we are not supposed to merely "say" yes to God, not merely supposed to "pray" the Our Father. God's will will be done when His Kingdom has come in my life — when I have learned to live the *fiat* and do whatever God tells me. MH

Marian Press is pleased to announce the new book by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* (see below).

Bring your family's intentions to faithful St. Joseph during the novena before his feast day March 19, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. (Visit marian.org/b45 for details.) As he does for countless Marian Helpers, St. Joseph can help you and your family through hard times.



Begin a journey that will change your life!

Order *Consecration to St. Joseph* by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

Call 1-800-462-7426 or visit ShopMercy.org/b45



See movie trailer

Faustina is a blockbuster

The prevailing ‘underdog’ thrills filmgoers

By Marc Massery

Everybody loves an underdog story. Consider the emergence of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. It came out of Poland, a country that had just survived 123 years without borders and was on the verge of Nazi invasion. It came through the writings of an obscure religious sister, Sr. Faustina, who worked menial jobs in the convent and had barely three years of formal education. It was spread by the Marian Fathers, an historically small religious congregation that dwindled to just one man in the early 20th century.

Despite these circumstances, despite the Vatican banning the spread of this devotion from 1959 to 1978 due to faulty translations of St. Faustina’s writings, Divine Mercy, as we all know, would eventually prevail. In 2000, St. Faustina was canonized as the first saint of the new millennium, Pope St. John Paul II established the first Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Divine Mercy, and the Divine Mercy message and devotion has become known and loved in countries all over the world.

The narrative of Divine Mercy, the prevailing underdog, continues through today. On Oct. 28, 2019, “Love and Mercy: Faustina,” a docudrama about the message of Divine Mercy and the mission of St. Faustina, screened in 797 theaters throughout the United States.

Sure, it was produced by a small Polish film studio. Yes,

Fathom Events only promised to screen the film for one night — a Monday night. Sure, it was up against blockbusters with multimillion-dollar budgets, including “The Joker,” “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil,” and “The Addams Family.” But “Love and Mercy,” the underdog, surprised everyone. Theaters throughout the United States reported sold-out shows, and that night, “Love and Mercy” grossed \$1.4 million nationwide, second only to “The Joker,” which grossed \$1.7 million.

Impressive, considering “The Joker” had played in 4,000 theaters, compared to just 797 for “Love and Mercy.” As a result of this success, theaters replayed the movie on two more nights: Dec. 2 and Dec 10.

“Love and Mercy: Faustina” is now available on DVD (see facing page).

Written, produced, and directed by a Polish Catholic named Michal Kondrat, the 120-minute film weaves dramatizations of the life of St. Faustina, played by Polish actress Kamila Kaminska, with documentary-style commentary.

In 2018, Michal came to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to seek the help of the Marian Fathers for this project. The film features Vicar General of the Marian Fathers the Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC, as the narrator; Provincial Superior



the Very Rev. Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC; the vice postulator for the causes of St. Faustina's canonization and beatification in North America, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC; and Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

"I produced this movie," said Michal, "because the *Diary [of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska]* was the book that has had a very strong impact in my life." About 18 years ago, Michal's sister gave him a copy of St. Faustina's *Diary* as a gift. When she noticed he had never opened the book, she gave him an audio version of the *Diary*. He listened, and it changed his life.

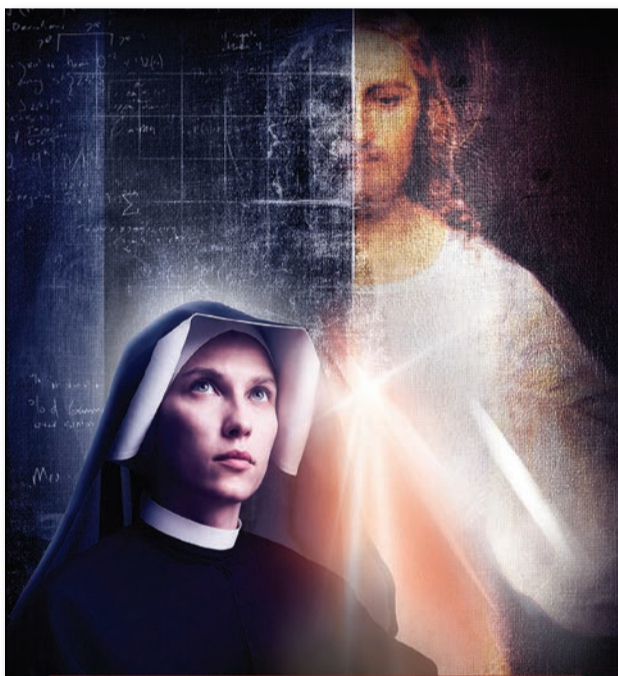
"I know this book still changes the lives of people on all continents," he said. "In these times, not all people want to read the book, but they like watching movies. I decided that it would be good to find the essence of the *Diary* and put it into a movie and share the *Diary* with others through the movie."

So far, the impact of this film has exceeded Michal's — and the Marian Fathers' — expectations.

"After the theatrical release of the movie, I received a lot of emails from people who wanted to share their feelings," he said. "This was important for me, because I didn't know that for some people it was the most important movie in their life. They needed something deep, to inspire, to change something in their life, and they wrote that the movie helped them."

Indeed, after the film's debut in the United States, view-

ers across the country flooded the Marian Fathers' Facebook page, Divine Mercy (Official), with positive comments. Here are a few:



The DVD is now available!
The critically acclaimed film "Love and Mercy: Faustina" is now available on DVD. To order, visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426. (Product code: B45-LAMDVD, \$16.95)

Phyllis Flynn-Mescia: Saw it Monday night — it was SUPERB! I'll buy the DVD as soon as it's released! It revitalized my interest in Divine Mercy!

Terri Maze: It was a great movie! I can't wait to buy the video! We loved seeing Fr. Chris Alar and the shrine! ...

Anita Grinis: Just came back from seeing it. My husband and I enjoyed it very much. A well-made film.

Rosario Alarco-Ellerhorst: Great movie! I encourage everyone to go see this movie. It's inspirational and informative. And, if it's within your means, go visit the shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

"I know that people are looking for happiness," said Michal, "but the only way to be happy is to fulfill God's will,

and we can do it only by opening up to His love. Because only His love can make us happy. That's it.

"I'm very glad that people liked the movie, but my dream is that they will remember the important things from this movie," he continued. "The most important thing from this movie is the title: 'Love and Mercy.' If after the movie someone can keep a little part of mercy, of love, and will share that with their family, with their friends, it will be a very big success."

MH

ALL ABOUT MARY AND DIVINE MERCY



A visit to the farm of Shaun Hillary leaves no doubt who's in charge: Jesus, the Divine Mercy. Shaun, with Fr. Chris Alar, MIC (right), and Br. Jason Lewis, MIC.

By Br. Jason Lewis, MIC

Traveling for Divine Mercy missions and to give talks on our new book, *After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You*, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and I make every effort to visit members of the Association of Marian Helpers along the way. We treasure their company. They all bring us joy.

I want to share an extraordinary visit we had in December with one such Marian Helper, Shaun Hillary.

Departing from Clearwater, Florida, we headed 71 miles northeast to Groveland. Our destination: Marian Gardens, a sprawling 1,000-plus-acre tree farm located in the center of the state.

We pulled up to a humble, low-slung structure and encountered a very good clue that we were at the right place: a 5-foot-tall statue of Our Lady of Grace. Then, we entered a lobby and saw a 4-foot-tall Divine Mercy Image hung above the fireplace.

One thing was unmistakably clear: Marian Gardens is all about Mary and Divine Mercy.

After a quick call made by the receptionist, an unassuming man emerged with a warm smile. He wore a blue, short-sleeved button-down shirt tucked into khakis. He

had suspenders strapped over his shoulders *and* a belt pulled snug just beneath the waistline.

Shaun is “a good ol’ boy,” down-to-earth, with a contagious joviality. But don’t let his unassuming, approachable demeanor disguise the fact he’s a businessman with a keen intellect and a knack for recognizing value in things that others might overlook. He gives all glory to God for opening doors in his life.

“So there’s the man himself,” Shaun said, referring to the recognizable “Fr. Joseph, MIC,” the honorary title held by Fr. Chris as director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “To what do I owe this privilege?”

“Shaun, we just want to thank you for 20 years of support in our mission for Mary and Divine Mercy,” Fr. Chris replied. “We’d love to hear more about Marian Gardens.”

Shaun happily obliged, and we soon set out for a tour of the property. Rows and rows of various trees appeared at every turn. Marian Farms boasts over 340,000 trees, including magnolia, oak, crape myrtle, and cypress. It’s one of the largest producers of potted trees in the eastern half of the United States. But that wasn’t always the case.

Back in the early 1950s, Shaun’s father bought what

was then a 1,200-acre ranch. He raised cattle and grew oranges. It proved difficult making a living. Cattle prices dropped, and successive years of winter frost and summer drought decimated produce. By 1975, Shaun knew something had to change.

As is often the case with His people, God transforms misfortunes into blessings. The drought revealed an unexpected commodity in the marshlands of the ranch: deposits of high-grade peat.

They began mining it and mixing it with pine bark to make potting soil and sold it to nurseries all over the state.

“I figured that somewhere between raw material cost and 12 dollars per cubic yard, there had to be some profit,” Shaun said with a laugh. He eventually devised an ingenious plan to transport 25 percent more peat per truckload than his competition, and soon, he “took over the market in south Florida.” He renamed the ranch Magic Grow Gardens in 1981.

But this self-described “dabbler in economics” knew he needed to “turn ordinary income into long-term capital gain,” so he bought additional land with the profits. Shaun now faced a new problem: what to do with the land.

In timely fashion, his trusted righthand man, Irishman Dave Counihan, discovered a new method for growing trees. They didn’t have to be planted in the ground to grow; they could be planted in 30-200 gallon pots sitting above ground and filled with his own potting soil, Shaun had “the winning combination,” or so he thought.

The new method of growing trees in pots involved a long, painful learning curve. Capital expenditures and taxes consumed profits. Shaun faced a conundrum. Frustrated, he asked himself, “When is this learning curve ever going to end?”

In the summer of 1984, he received a call from his cousin Jim. Hardly able to contain himself, Jim exclaimed, “The Blessed Mother is appearing in Croatia in a place called Medjugorje! What are we gonna do?”

Startled and intrigued, Shaun recalled his childhood and how his father would read to him the story of Our Lady of Fatima. He answered Jim without hesitation, “We’re gonna go!”

The next week, Shaun and Jim headed to Medjugorje, the site of the alleged apparitions. He said that, while

there, they witnessed the “miracle of the sun,” which reminded Shaun of the solar miracle seen by 70,000 in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, during history’s most famous Marian apparition. He also attended an alleged apparition at the house of the purported visionary, Vicka. There, he first encountered the Image of Divine Mercy.

Shaun described the experience.

“I was overcome with heat,” he said. “It was like a nuclear bomb going off in me. It was a game changer, to say the least. I said to myself, ‘Wow, this is *real*. Whatever happened in there was *real*.’”



Marian Gardens Tree Farm includes 1,000 acres of container tree production. It’s one of the largest tree farms in the eastern United States, supplying landscapers, wholesalers, and garden centers from New York to Texas.

Upon returning to Florida, Shaun made some changes. “We got rid of ‘Magic,’” he said. He changed the name of Magic Grow Gardens to Marian Gardens and ordered the custom bronze statue of Our Lady of Grace located at the entrance. He also consecrated his entire business and land to the Blessed Mother.

“That’s when things really changed,” Shaun said. “Mostly, the change was in *me*.”

He recalls the voices opposing these changes.

“There was a lot of talk, like, ‘You don’t need to drag religion into business.’ But I’m kind of contrary. I said, ‘Yes, that’s exactly what’s needed — to drag religion right into business.’ And that’s when my business really took off.”

Later, Shaun built a Divine Mercy grotto beneath picturesque palm trees and live oaks draped in Spanish moss. It features a life-sized bronze statue of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and a stone altar. There, we celebrated the Holy Mass for Shaun, his family, and Marian Gardens precisely at 3 o’clock, the Hour of Great Mercy.

Later, when asked why he became a Marian Helper, Shaun said, “You Marians are all about exactly what I am all about: the Blessed Mother and Divine Mercy. That’s the real business to be in!”

MH



Most of the panelists have been married between 20 to 56 years, and several were grandfathers. One father who has been married 56 years and has four sons joked, “I don’t know how we did it!”

A DIFFERENT PICTURE OF **FATHERHOOD**

By Terry Peloquin

Homer Simpson. Al Bundy. Dan Connor. Ray Barone. Tim “The Toolman” Taylor. You might know these fathers from popular television comedies in recent decades.

Images of their TV families were set on a poster board in a comparison with more wholesome shows from the 1950s.

This display stood in the front of the Saint Faustina Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where 18 participants gathered on Saturday, Nov. 9, for a roundtable intended to foster authentic Christian fatherhood.

The daylong event, entitled “Fatherhood: A Source of Hope for Family, Church, and Culture,” followed last year’s “Motherhood and Faith Roundtable.”

A real-life father

As he welcomed guests, the event’s planner, Br. John Luth, MIC, discussed the modern TV fathers “who present more often than not as self-centered, scheming smart alecks or hedonists, and manipulative conmen, who know nothing of adult responsibility, let alone of fatherhood, and who share nothing in common with ...”

He paused.

“Well, let me introduce you to another type of father,” he said, handing one guest a black-and-white photo to pass around. It was Br. John’s own father holding a newborn baby.

Brother John said he enjoyed hearing his father tell the story of when his parents brought home their first infant,

his sister. “As my father would tell it, I could see my mother leaning over my father’s shoulders as he held my sister, both sitting awash in a wonderment of her perfections, her lashes and fine hair, the tiny perfection of her mouth, her toenails and fingernails.”

Then, Br. John passed around a second photo of his father with a baby. “Though this was his fourth and final child, he had lost none of that

wonder and reverie across the years.” The panelists regarded the images, each reliving the moment for themselves.

“Today,” Br. John said, “we have come to ponder fatherhood and all it means to each of us, the joys and hopes, the grief and anxieties all of you experience and share as fathers.”

‘What makes a good papa?’

The roundtable was moderated by lay Dominican speaker



Television’s portrayal of fatherhood is made plain by TV images. Fathers at the roundtable discussed what real, Christian fatherhood means.

and author Rose Folsom. Rose recounted Br. John's list of the obstacles facing fathers, including the media's portrayal of fatherhood as "weak" and "bumbling." She asked the panelists to call out words *they* would use to describe what a father is.

Sacrifice. Protective. Love. Priest. Provider. Teacher. Happiness. Guide. Patience. Counselor. Supporter. Leader. Shepherd.

"If all paternity comes from God the Father, as St. Paul tells us, then the very attributes of God the Father are lived out in Christian fatherhood," Rose said. "You just named a bunch of them. And that's what brings hope to your families, our Church, our culture, living out the attributes of God in your life."

The youngest father in the room admitted that most of the panelists had been married longer than he has been alive. "So I speak not from experience but from desire," he said. "My wife and I know there were no instructions for parenting. When we were pulling up to the Shrine, I asked my daughter, who's 2, what does it mean to be a good papa? And without hesitation she said, 'Jesus.'"

The young father and his wife had added to their children's baptismal certificates a reference to Matthew 28:19-20. There, Jesus tells His followers to make disciples of all nations, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." He concluded, "So the 'instruction book' really is the life of Christ."

Specific advice

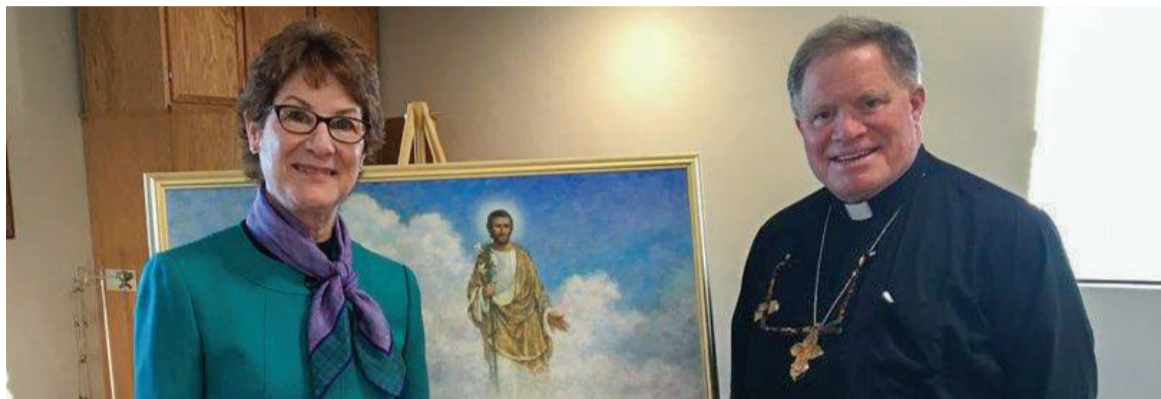
Some of the older fathers commiserated at the pain of seeing a child leave the faith, even if only temporarily. One father of six adult children recalled, "My wife and I were on a pilgrimage with 140 people, most of whom were in their 60s. Their biggest concern was 'How are we going to be happy in Heaven if our kids aren't there?'"

The couple found that words wouldn't sway their children. "We realized we need to work at becoming better

Catholics and defend the faith by example."

Here are a few pointers gleaned through experience:

- Bring your family to church with you. Sit in the front so small children can see.
- Pray together out loud every night.
- Pray over your children and grandchildren.
- Be vigilant over who and what influences them.
- Establish household rules. Set guidelines.



Rose Folsom moderated the motherhood roundtable in 2018 and the recent fathers' roundtable. She was invited by Br. John Luth, MIC.

- Pray at every meal, at home or in public.
- Discuss religion with your family. Go more in depth as they mature.
- Talk with your kids daily. If they're adults and moved away, use the phone.
- No matter what your child does, pray for them and love them.

Watching with intensity

At the end of the day, Br. John said he had been watching not only the panelists, but the *observers*. Noting the "intensity of the attention" they gave to the discussions, he asked, "What impressed you?"

Most of the observers began by complimenting the panelists for their forthcoming answers and openness.

Sheila Kuzmic of Westerly, Rhode Island, said, "I was sobbing through quite a bit of this. I saw courage and perseverance in their trials despite the odds. No matter what story it was, they hung in there because of the faith, the grace that they experienced. ... And the last thing I realized was that, no matter what story, God was in control." MH

What does Scripture say about a father's role?

A lot. Here are only a few examples:

Indeed, I have singled him out that he may direct his children and his household in the future to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord may put into effect for Abraham the promises he made about him.

— **Genesis 18:19**

I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go.

— **Joshua 1:9**

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

— **Ephesians 6:4**

2 Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.

— **Proverbs 22:6**



‘THE PINNACLE OF ALL OTHER FREEDOMS’

ANDREY POPOV/BIGSTOCK

Catholic social teaching on religious liberty

Catholic social teaching is one of the great treasures of the Church, and yet all too often, it's neglected or overlooked entirely. In this issue of Marian Helper, we continue our exploration of the Church's social teaching, this time focusing on religious liberty.

By Chris Sparks

Christians are the target of roughly 80 percent of all religious persecution around the world.

So said British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on July 8, 2019, at a press conference to release a report the British Foreign Office had commissioned on its response to the global persecutions of Christians. We who live in the security and freedom of the United States may find that a staggering thought. But it's been that bad for some time.

Noted journalist and Vatican expert John Allen summed

up the situation bluntly in a piece for *The Spectator* on Oct. 5, 2013, saying, “Statistically speaking, that makes Christians by far the most persecuted religious body on the planet.

We must perseveringly pray for the conversion and sanctification of our neighbors, and at the same time defend their right to religious liberty.

“According to the Pew Forum, between 2006 and 2010 Christians faced some form of discrimination, either *de jure* or *de facto*, in a staggering total of 139 nations,

which is almost three-quarters of all the countries on earth,” he continued. “According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theologi-

cal Seminary in Massachusetts, an average of 100,000 Christians have been killed in what the center calls a 'situation of witness' each year for the past decade. That works out to 11 Christians killed somewhere in the world every hour, seven days a week and 365 days a year, for reasons related to their faith.

"In effect, the world is witnessing the rise of an entire new generation of Christian martyrs," concluded Allen, author of *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution*. "The carnage is occurring on such a vast scale that it represents not only the most dramatic Christian story of our time, but arguably the premier human rights challenge of this era as well."

And it's a human rights challenge that Catholic social teaching summons us to address.

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right. So said the Church in one of the most authoritative ways she can: The bishops in communion with the Holy Father gathered in an ecumenical council and, drawing on traditions going back to the time of the Church Fathers, issued Vatican II's declaration *Dignitatis Humanae* (*Of the Dignity of the Human Person*). That teaching has been reiterated and further explained in the papal magisteria of St. Paul VI and his successors, especially St. John Paul II. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums up that teaching (see, for instance, *Catechism*, 1738, 1778, 1782, 1790, 2104-2109).

Pope Benedict XVI, in his 2012 apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia In Medio Oriente* (*On the Church in the Middle East: Communion and Witness*), said, "Religious freedom is the pinnacle of all other freedoms. It is a sacred and inalienable right. It includes on the individual and collective levels the freedom to follow one's conscience in religious matters and, at the same time, freedom of worship. It includes the freedom to choose the religion which one judges to be true and to manifest one's beliefs in public. It must be possible to profess and freely manifest one's religion and its symbols without endangering one's life and personal freedom. Religious freedom is rooted in the dignity of the person; it safeguards moral freedom and fosters mutual respect" (26).

Now, it's important to acknowledge that the right of

individuals to religious liberty is not the same thing as teaching religious "indifferentism" (that religious differences don't matter) or "syncretism" (the attempted fusion of different religions; see *Catechism*, 2108-2109).

The Church teaches clearly, and has always taught, that every person has a moral obligation to pursue the truth and to live according to it (see *Catechism*, 2467). Further, the Truth ultimately is Jesus Christ (see *Catechism*, 2466), and Christianity is the religion that He has established (see *Catechism*, 2105). Evangelization is a requirement of all Christians, whether in word, prayer, or deed (see *Catechism*, 2044, 2472). We must pursue the union of all peoples in the Mystical Body of Christ.

At the same time, it is also morally wrong to compel or coerce a person to profess a belief. "The truth cannot impose itself except by virtue of its own truth, as it makes its entrance into the mind at once quietly and with power" (*Dignitatis Humanae*, 1). George Weigel, the great papal biographer, succinctly sums up Vatican II's teaching: "Error has no rights — but people do."

So how do we defend religious liberty and also evangelize our communities? In St. John Paul II's "Address

to the Participants in the Congress on Secularism and Religious Freedom Marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of 'Dignitatis Humanae'" on Dec. 7, 1995, he makes the method plain:

"The Church neither seeks nor desires to see any worldly power placed at the service of the truths she bears. She asks only to be allowed to address man in freedom; and she asks for all human beings the freedom to respond to the Gospel in the full measure of their humanity (6)."

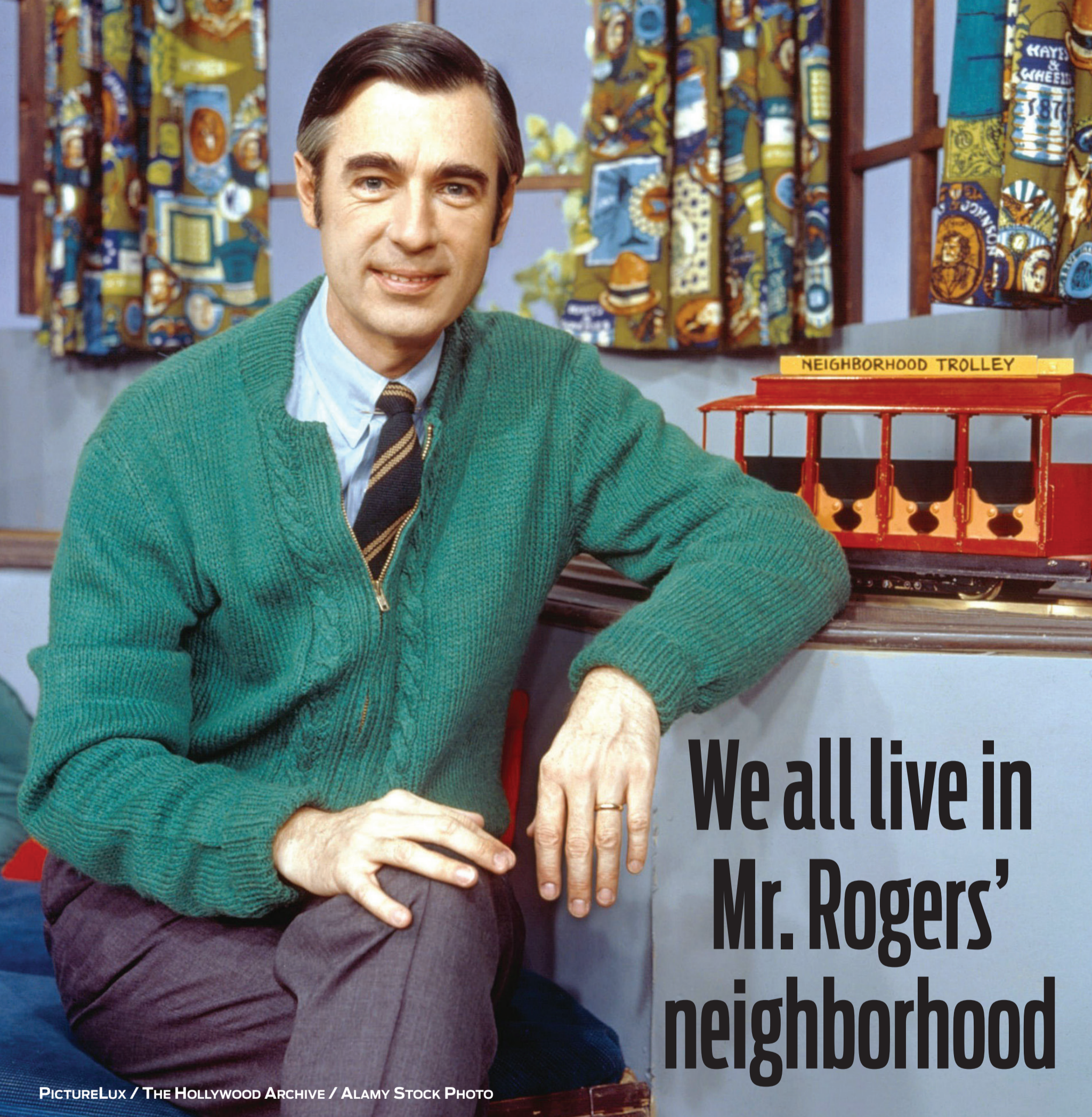
To have faith is a choice, yes, but it depends on God's grace (see *Catechism*, 153-155). We must perseveringly pray for the conversion and sanctification of our neighbors, and at the same time defend their right to religious liberty.

We don't control the conversion of others. We simply throw open the treasury of graces and share the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and works of mercy. And we bear witness to the Gospel, to the love of God who gives us free will, by standing with the Church in her defense of religious freedom for all.

MH

"We believe that God created human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and he calls them to live as brothers and sisters and to spread the values of goodness, love and peace. That is why freedom of conscience and religious freedom — which is not limited to freedom of worship alone, but allows all to live in accordance with their religious convictions — are inseparably linked to human dignity."

— Pope Francis



PICTURELUX / THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

We all live in Mr. Rogers' neighborhood

By Chris Sparks

Deep within us — no matter who we are — there lives a feeling of wanting to be lovable, of wanting to be the kind of person that others like to be with. And the greatest thing we can do is to let people know that they are loved and capable of loving.

— Fred Rogers, *The World According To Mister Rogers*

Who is my neighbor? And what do I owe them?

Scripture has many answers.

A neighbor is kin (see Deut 15:2).

Throughout the Mosaic Law, we read of our obligations to our neighbor. You shall not steal, defraud, or injure your neighbor. You shall not slander them, or put their life in danger.

Indeed, you shall love your neighbor as yourself (see Lev 19:8).

Jesus put love of God and neighbor at the root of the Law and the Prophets, and then expanded that commandment to eternity when He said, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (Jn 13:34; 15:12).

Who is my neighbor, and what do I owe them?

Fred Rogers lived it. Look at any picture of him, and just as is the case with anyone who truly, deeply lives their Christian faith, you can see the answer in his eyes.

There’s been a lot of talk about Mr. Rogers recently, fueled by the 2018 documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” and the 2019 film “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” starring Tom Hanks. Though Fred Rogers died in 2003, his legacy is more relevant and more powerful now than ever, aging like a fine wine.

And what is that legacy?

Part of it is the hundreds of episodes of his award-winning TV show, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Part of it is the speeches, the books, the interviews. But an even larger and more important part of his legacy is the millions of people who watched him, who were touched by him, and the millions who are still being touched by him — by the witness of his person and his presence; by his stubborn adherence to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and by his determined living out of that Gospel in his work and in his life.

His show didn’t just entertain children; it spoke to children. It treated children as persons, as immortal souls with intellects, wills, and passions — as beloved children of God. It treated us like Fred Rogers himself would have wanted to be treated, because Fred Rogers remembered what it was to be a child.

Father Andy Davy, MIC, grew up watching “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” and he knew even then it was different from everything else on television. “I think there was just a very real sense he was talking *to me*, whereas a lot of other shows were either talking to someone else

or they were talking down to me,” Fr. Andy said. “He was someone who actually really understood me.” The power of the show lay in “the sense that this man really cared about me, and that I was someone who was good, someone who was special, someone that he didn’t just like in just a general sort of way, a quick way, but even my little child’s brain and little heart recognized here’s someone who really paid attention to me, even though he’s on the other side of the TV.”

In Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood, we are all neighbors, all of us, the whole wide world of humanity. We all owe each other love, and justice, and peace. With Mr. Rogers, we witness contemplation in action. We witness a man seeing the world the way it really is, and seeing people through the eyes of the Father of Mercies. We see a man being just to his neighbors, to their incredible, ineffable dignity, and to the wonders of the world around him.

That, of course, meant that he was merciful to the merciless, kind to the coldhearted, and generous to a world that often caused him substantial pain and frustration.

Fred Rogers lived mercy — a costly mercy; the same sort of costly mercy that Jesus, the Divine Mercy, gave to the world from the Cross. Mister Rogers’ mercy was a mercy of listening, of openness to the other, of speaking to people where they

were at. According to the 2019 book *The World According To Mister Rogers*, he once said, “Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors.”

Who is my neighbor? The whole wide world. What do I owe them? The justice that leads to peace; the divine love with which I am loved; the Divine Mercy that Jesus gives us all.

Mister Rogers’ neighborhood was as wide as God’s own neighborhood, as wide as creation, as open to the other as any Christian ever has been or ever will be. And in that neighborhood, all are to love the other as they love themselves, and as they are loved by Jesus. As Fred Rogers said in 1994 at the commencement exercises for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (of which he was an alumnus), “You know, it’s not the honors and the prizes and the fancy outsides of life which ultimately nourish our souls. It’s the knowing that we can be trusted, that we never have to fear the truth, that ultimately there is someone who loves our very being.”

Mister Rogers loved his neighbors because Jesus loved Mr. Rogers. Let us all do likewise in our own neighborhoods. MH

“I think there was just a very real sense he was talking *to me*, whereas a lot of other shows were either talking to someone else or they were talking down to me. He was someone who actually really understood me.”

— Fr. Andy Davy, MIC, who grew up watching “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”

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SPEAKERS



Fr. Chris Alar, MIC
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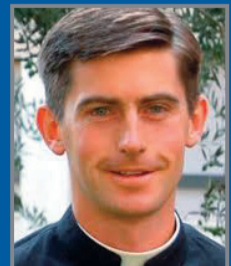
Msgr. James Lisante
Pastor, Author,
and Television
Commentator



Teresa Tomeo
Author, Speaker, and
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WORKING ‘IN FAUSTINA’S OFFICE’

Creative giving doesn’t necessarily mean having to reach for the checkbook. Indeed, I’m often surprised and humbled by the resourceful ways Marian Helpers support the Marian Fathers’ mission to bring Divine Mercy to the world.

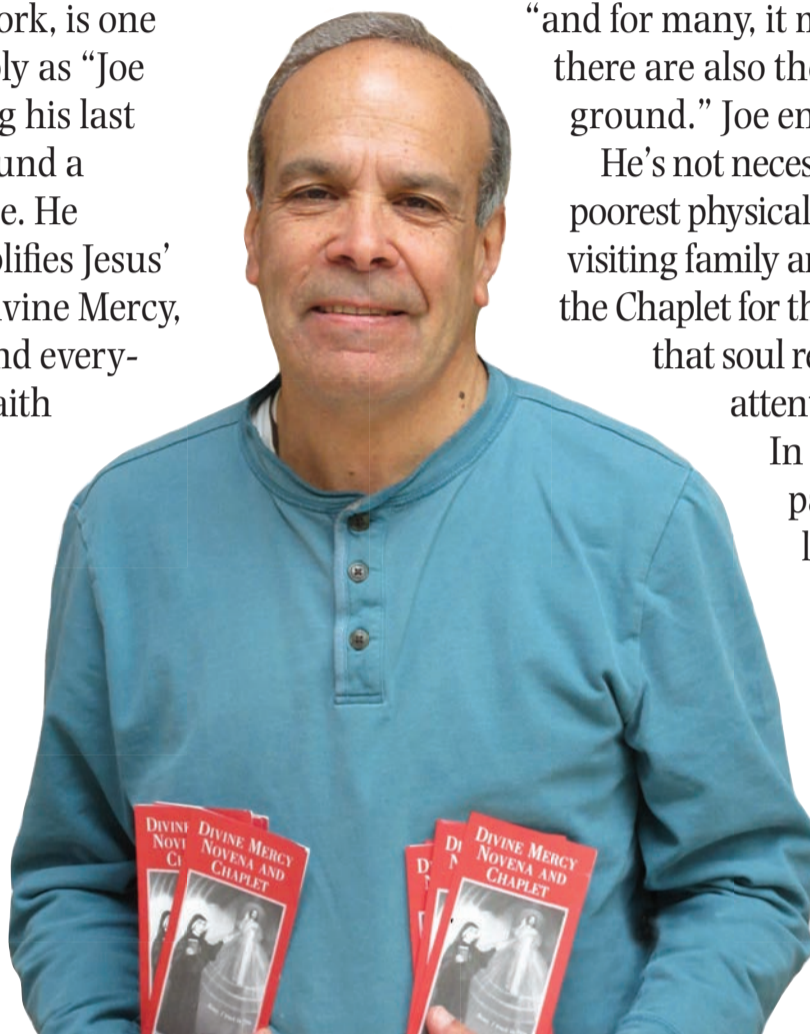
Joe Gugliuzzo of Albany, New York, is one such Marian Helper. Known simply as “Joe G.” for obvious reasons (try saying his last name three times fast!), he has found a meaningful way to give of his time. He established a ministry that exemplifies Jesus’ call that we live the message of Divine Mercy, that we “show mercy ... always and everywhere,” that “even the strongest faith is of no avail without works” as Jesus tells us through St. Faustina (see *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742).

What does Joe do? He works “in St. Faustina’s office.” (That’s how he puts it.)

For many years, Joe has been driving all over New York State and Vermont visiting parishes. Why? He leaves behind copies of the Marian Press pamphlet “Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet” (Product code: B45-LFMCN). His hope — his prayer — is that people, including those who have fallen away from the Church, will take a pamphlet, read it, and be drawn to the Divine Mercy message and the prayers given to the world by Jesus through St. Faustina in the 1930s.

He feels compelled to share this pamphlet because it gives people an effective way to pray for souls in Purgatory. Indeed, for the eighth day of the Divine Mercy Novena, Jesus encourages us to offer indulgences for the Holy Souls in Purgatory (see *Diary*, 1209). Joe has a special devotion to the souls in Purgatory, and he does his best to help as many of them to Heaven as possible. And, yes, he’s a huge fan of St. Faustina. He urges other ministries — such as family, youth, and prison ministries — to distribute the pamphlet.

“Ministries are the work in God’s vineyard,” Joe says,



“and for many, it means service for others. But there are also those who work in the background.” Joe enjoys his “background” work.

He’s not necessarily trying to reach those in poorest physical health. Often, he reaches out to visiting family and friends, in hopes they will pray the Chaplet for the sick or dying person, and help that soul reach Heaven. Joe also tries to stay attentive to staff who seem interested.

In addition, he prays for those patients who have been in a prolonged state of unconsciousness, or otherwise unable to participate.

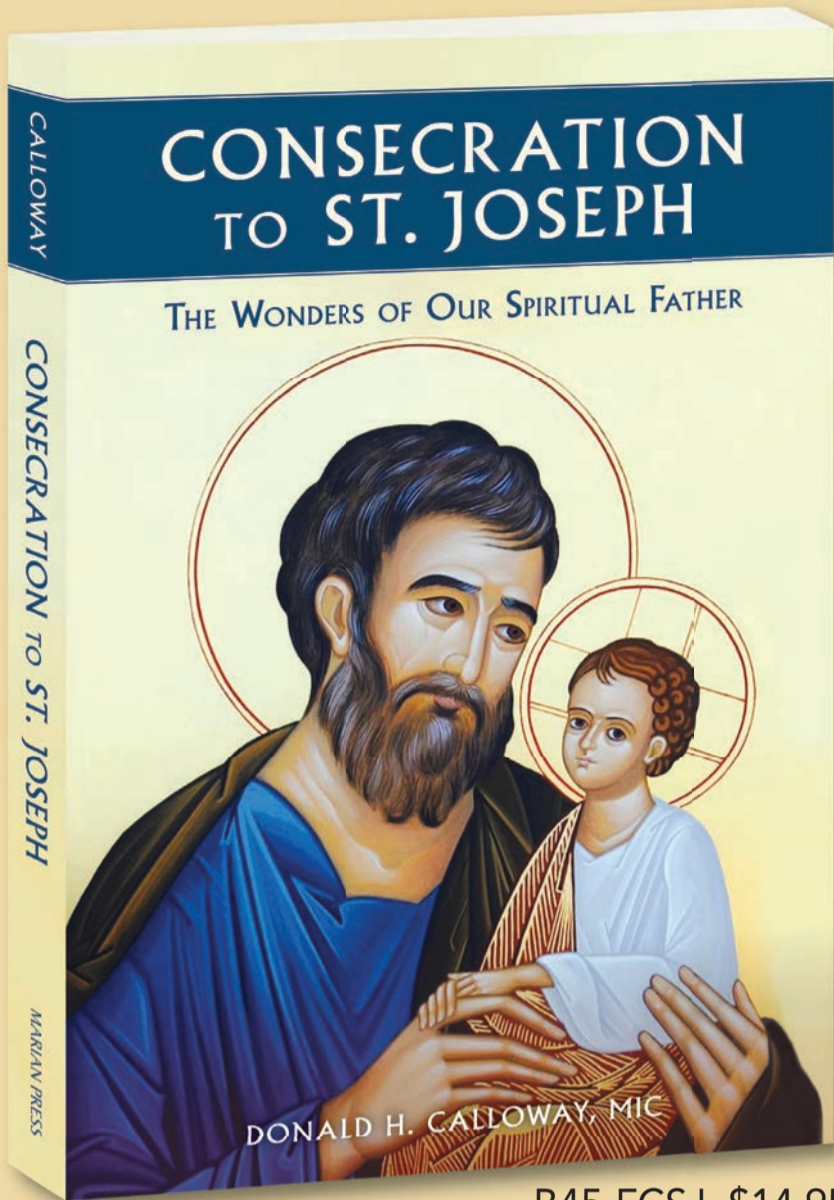
When he first began this ministry many years ago, Joe said some parishes didn’t want the pamphlets and didn’t understand the Chaplet. Not anymore. Joe and his pamphlets are now gratefully received by parish office staff.

“Jesus wanted everyone to say the Chaplet and entrusted St. Faustina with the task to assist souls in this world and the next,” Joe says. “We all know in this life we all need lots of prayers. Praying in this way helps us focus on what is important, not only for others, but what is important in our lives as well.”

Joe’s ministry is a great example of creative giving. Another example is the gift of stock. Many people don’t realize there’s a large tax break associated with giving stock you’ve owned for at least a year. You do not pay any capital gains tax on the stock’s appreciation, and you are allowed to claim a charitable gift deduction for your stock’s current fair market value. By using stock, you can actually give more to charity.



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



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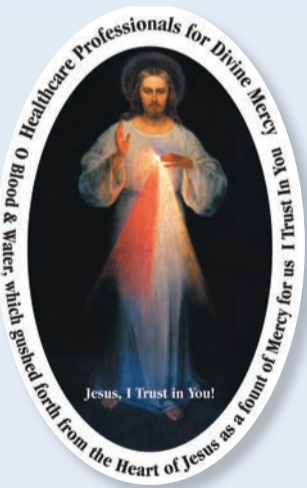
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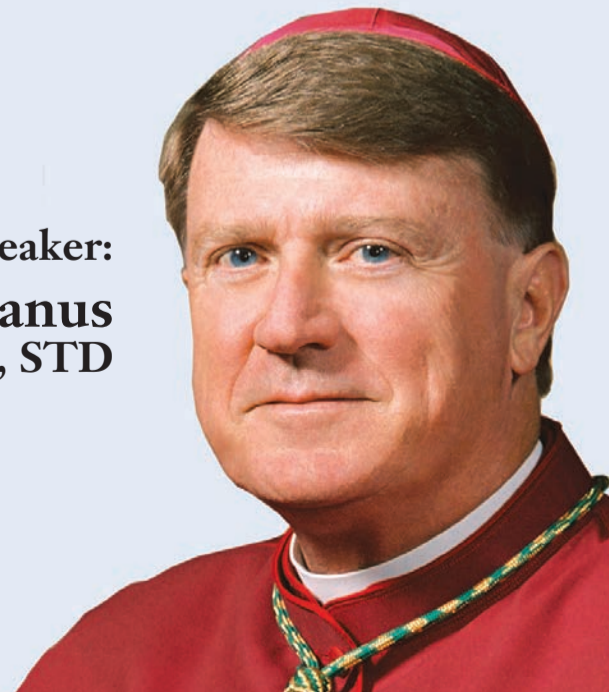
Keynote speaker:

Bishop Robert McManus
DD, STD

Featured speaker:

Sr. Gaudia Skass

OLM, Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy



Visit TheDivineMercy.org/worcester

GRACES RECEIVED

Our Easter 'miracle'

I am writing to tell you about Blessed George's intercession during Easter. My father had been very ill and was put on the heart transplant list in January. A heart became available, but it was not a match. His health was not improving and the doctors said all we could do was pray.

A few weeks before Easter, a friend gave me the Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed George from a friend. I prayed this prayer several times a day. On Good Friday, a heart became available. On Holy Saturday, the doctors successfully performed the heart transplant on my father. He is feeling wonderful. I wanted you to know of our Easter "miracle" from God through the intercession of Blessed George. I will continue to pray to Blessed George for my father's recovery and new life. I ask other Marian Helpers to join me in this prayer.

— DE, Oakville,
Connecticut

Son-in-law finds a new job

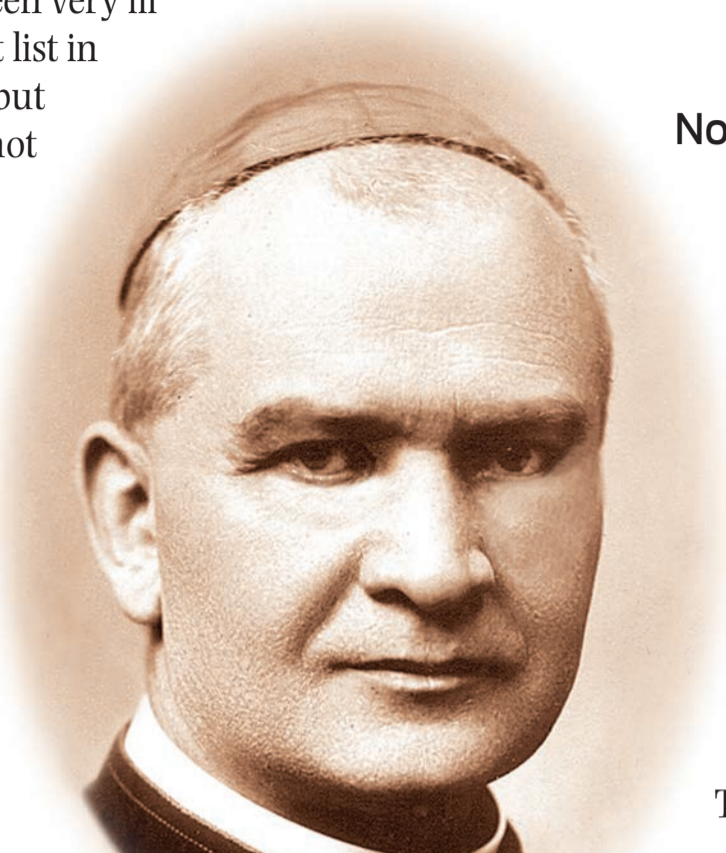
My daughter called to tell me that my son-in-law had lost his job. It was totally unexpected, and they were in shock.

The next day, I received a copy of *Marian Helper* and read the letters about Blessed George and graces received. I knew that was a sign that I needed to pray to Blessed George for my son-in-law. I began praying that day, and I also ordered the prayer card.

Within two weeks, he had an offer of a new job, which

he gratefully accepted. I have no doubt that God granted this grace through the intercession of Blessed George.

— SG, Smithfield,
Rhode Island



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

No cancer found

My daughter had breast cancer two years ago. She has had 25 radiation treatments. On an average of every three months, she has to undergo a CT scan. Last month, the scan showed swelling in the lymph nodes, and she had to have a biopsy. I prayed to Blessed George for his intercession every day. The test results came in, and no cancer was seen, but the doctors want to keep monitoring these lymph nodes. Thank you, Blessed George, for your intercession.

— AM, Dix Hills,
New York

Granddaughter buys home

I have been praying to Blessed George for my granddaughter to be able to buy a home, and she was able to purchase a house for

her and her two small children, ages 5 and 7.

Many thanks for the graces received through the intercession of Blessed George.

— HW, Sydney, Nova Scotia

For a Blessed George prayercard (B45-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: graces@marian.org.

Prayer for a Special Grace through the intercession of Blessed George

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

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

After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You

By Fr. Chris Alar, MIC and Jason Lewis, MIC

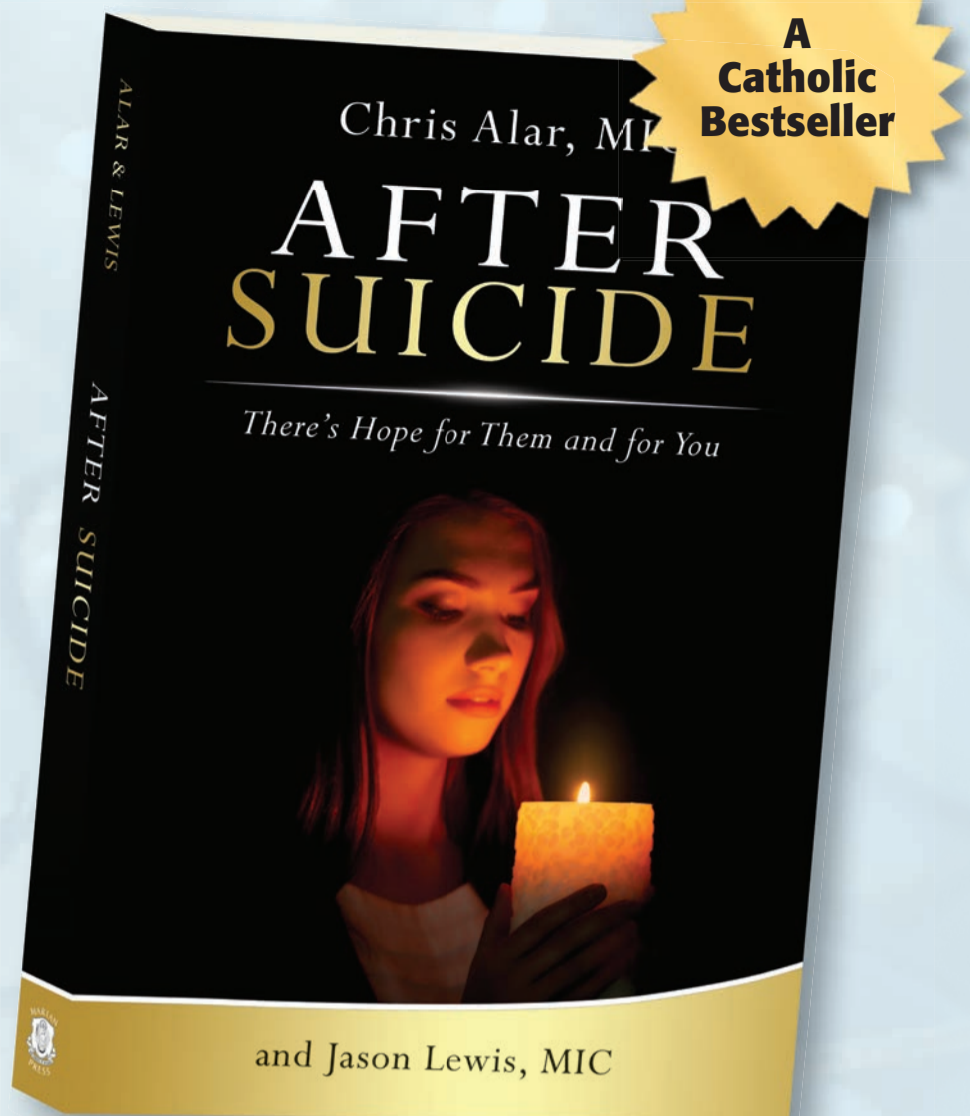
In this Catholic bestseller, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Jason Lewis, MIC, address the hard issue of suicide simply and pastorally.



Father Chris Alar, MIC

Drawing from the teaching of the Church, the message of Divine Mercy, and their own experience of losing a loved one, they offer readers two key forms of hope: hope for the salvation of those who've died by their own hand, and hope for the healing of those left behind. This book is a must-read for all those trying

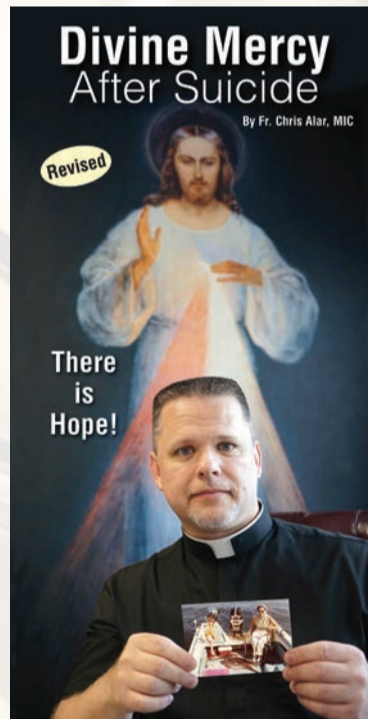
to make sense out of such a difficult subject. Remarkably, the spiritual principles of healing and redemption apply not only to a loss from suicide, but by any means of death. Paperback, 195 pages. **B45-ASTH \$14.95**



Prayer Card

Includes a prayer for those lost to suicide from the *Order of Christian Funerals*.

B45-FRJPC



Divine Mercy After Suicide (Revised)

Many give up hope for those who have committed suicide and believe their souls are lost. This pamphlet explains why you should never give up on them – and what you should do instead.

B45-HOPE

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Checks payable to: Association of Marian Helpers

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Postage costs may vary for online orders.

Prepare for Lent & Divine Mercy Sunday

33 Days to Greater Glory:

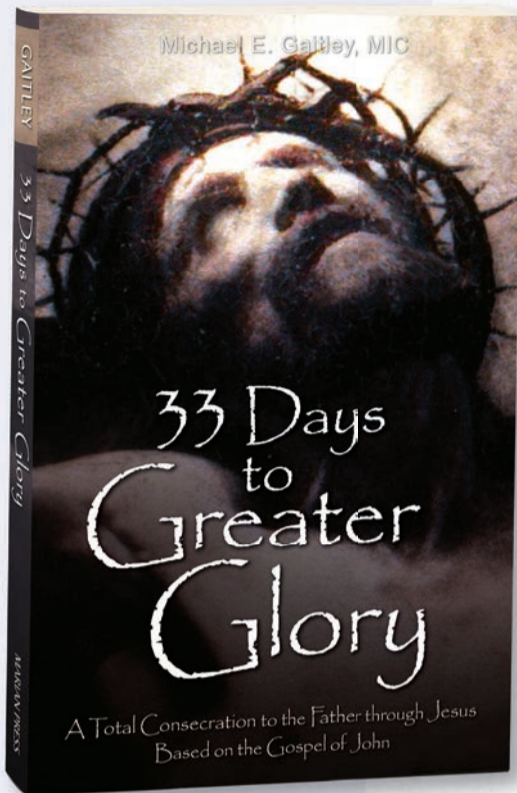
A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus,
Based on the Gospel of John

By Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

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

Get the consecration book *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus, Based on the Gospel of John*. Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Offered until March 17. Visit marian.org/GreaterGlory or call 1-800-462-7426 and use product code: B45F-33DGG. (One per household. Continental U.S. only.)

To order additional copies, visit ShopMercy.org/b45 and use product code: B45-33DGG. Cost: \$15.95.



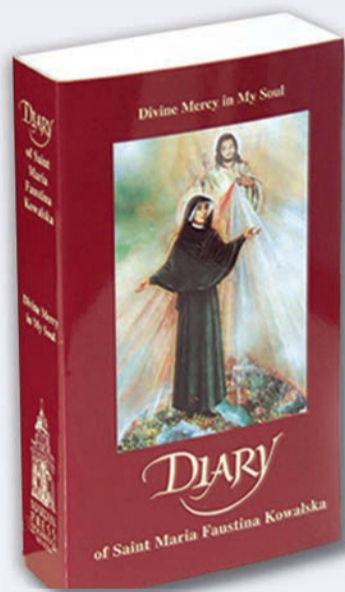
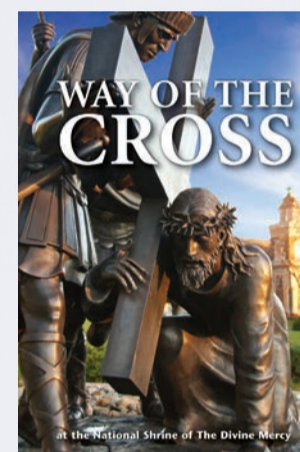
Come to Mercy

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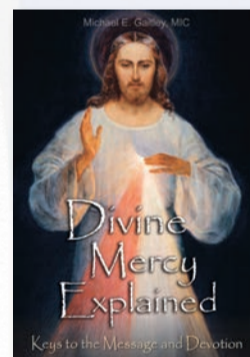
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Contains St. Faustina's Way of the Cross and the Traditional Way of the Cross as well as 14 meditations written by Marian priests and seminarians. Illustrated with images of the life-size Stations of the Cross. 80 pages. B45-CWY3 \$6.95



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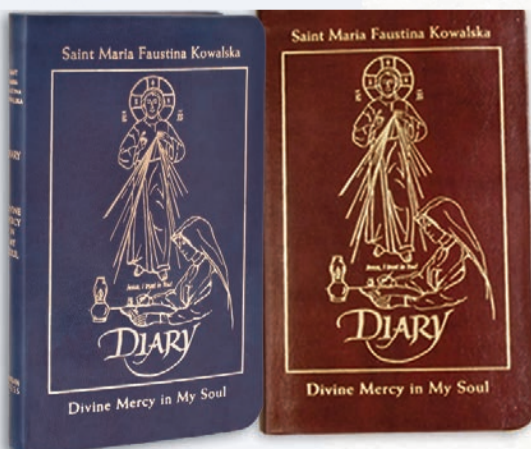


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Seventy years ago ...

We found this in the July 1950 issue of the Marian Helpers Bulletin — a write-up on construction work beginning on what would become the *National Shrine of The Divine Mercy* in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The future Shrine would be dedicated 10 years later — debt-free, by the way!

CHAPEL WORK BEGUN



Starting the foundation of our new Chapel

On a calm day, in the first part of May, the tranquility of Eden Hill was disturbed by a great rumble of a steam-shovel, three trucks, and a bull-dozer. The long-awaited event of digging the foundation for our new Chapel had finally come.

In the course of five toilsome days, a great, gaping hole remained in the place which formerly was part of a beautiful lawn dotted with some very old trees.

Tons upon tons of earth were removed from the site of the Chapel which will be dedicated to the Merciful Saviour, and before long, the foundation will be laid, with the walls, roof, etc., following.

The limited means which we had in order to begin the work on the Chapel were practically exhausted when the bill for the digging came to us, and now it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with the costs. However, we know that the Merciful Jesus will not abandon us in the endeavor to honor Him for all the graces received through His Merciful Heart. This is best seen in the fact that Mr. Anthony Guerrieri—architect and builder, who has two priest-sons and two daughters in the Convent, has come to aid us, despite the fact that our material means are wanting. His tireless efforts and hopes are indeed very encouraging to all, and it is quite gratifying to see him working side-by-side with everyone else.

Live the call!



Fr. Matt talks
about Mary
and his mom.



Marian Helper Rick Plachetka:

I began attending St. Patrick Parish after moving to Yorkville, Illinois, in 1984. It is there where I discovered the Marians' strong devotion to our Mother Mary. I realized the need to get our Mother involved in everything we do as a parish. After experiencing this, I also felt called to increase my support of good priests who are her spokesmen against evil. The Marian Fathers turn to Mary as our primary intercessor to Jesus. They also promote the Rosary, which I now say every day. I received one from the Marians a long time ago, and I still carry it in my pocket.

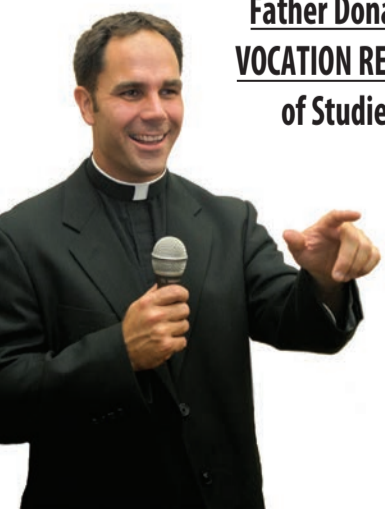
Father Matthew Lamoureux, MIC:

Growing up, I had fleeting thoughts about becoming a priest. During college, my devotion to Our Lady increased. Then, I found out about the Marian Fathers. I knew that if I were going to become a priest, I would want to belong to an order devoted to Mary and faithful to the Church. I prayed and had a great sense of peace when I thought of myself joining the Marians. I knew this was the path for me. I was ordained on June 25, 2005, and my current assignment is serving as pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Yorkville, Illinois, where we love Our Lady!

Attend a retreat

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

The next retreat will be:
March 6-8



Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
Visit: marian.org/vocations

Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Vocation Director
Marian Fathers of the
Immaculate Conception
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