

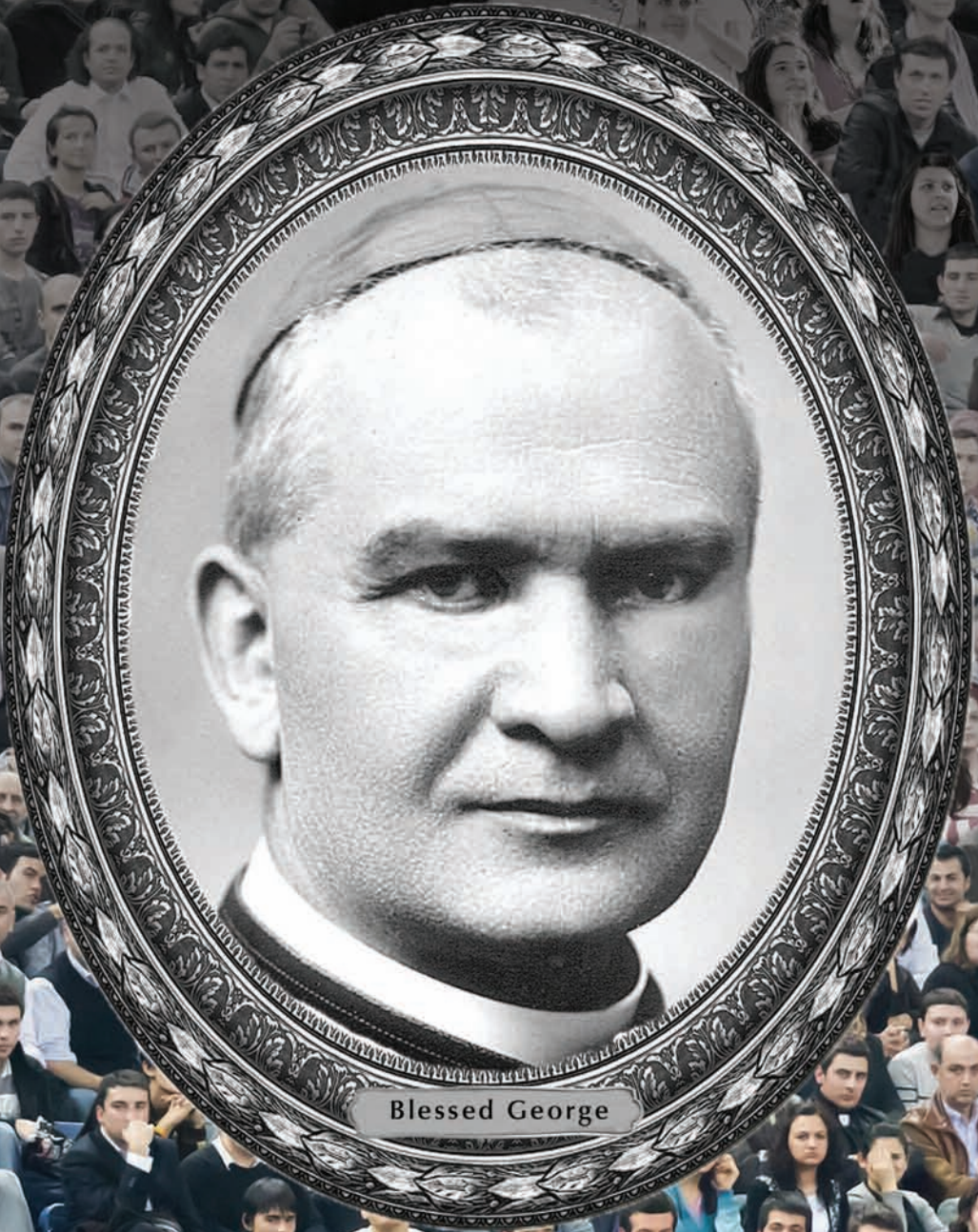
Inspired by Blessed George's legacy, the Marian Fathers work with the laity

Summer 2013 • \$2.25

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception

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Blessed George

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YEARS in the USA

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MARIAN HELPER

AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER

Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC
"Father Joseph, MIC"

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

David Came

SR. DESIGNER/ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Andrew Leeco

WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Felix Carroll

AMH GENERAL PROMOTER

Br. Andrew R. Mączyński, MIC



On the cover: Blessed George Matulaitis is surrounded by the laity to signify the centennial of the Marians' establishment in the USA under Blessed George's direction, who encouraged his fellow Marians to work with the laity. Graphic illustration: Andrew Leeco.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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



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

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

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

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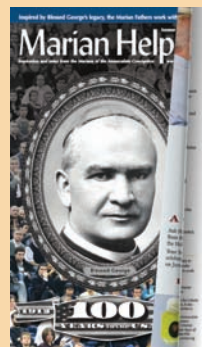
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Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

Teaming up with the laity

Growing up, I played a lot of sports. My mom would drive my brother and me from one practice to another, one game to another, one tournament to another. And I loved it.

Why? What's so satisfying about playing sports? Of course, there's the exhilaration of competition, the glory of victory, and the refreshment of the exercise. More recently, though, I'm beginning to appreciate that perhaps the greatest joy of all has to do with being part of a team.

Now that I've been the director of the Association of Marian Helpers here in Stockbridge, Mass., for about two-and-a-half years, I can honestly say that I've never been so happy in my life. I can also say I've never worked so hard. But that's where the joy comes in: There's nothing like working on a team, with a team, and as a team for Christ and the Church. And that's what I've been able to do here, thanks to the vision of Blessed George Matulaitis, the Renovator of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

Blessed George was way ahead of his time. In the early 1900s, when many people would say that Catholic laity were just called to "pay, pray, and obey," Father Renovator was inviting laymen and women to join him and the Marians in their work. In a time when laypeople thought that only priests were called to

spread the Gospel, Blessed George was inspiring the laity to bring Christ to those places where the priest's words could not reach. In a time when vocations to the priesthood were plentiful, Blessed George was nevertheless talking about the need for laypeople to collaborate with the clergy for the salvation of souls.

For the
Marians, this
innovative

vision of Blessed George (a vision that would later be confirmed by the teachings of Vatican II) has borne tremendous fruit. For example, here in the United States, where the Marian community is extremely small compared to other religious orders like the Jesuits or Dominicans, the Marians have made a huge impact, particularly by spreading the message of Divine Mercy. In fact, I often hear some of the older priests in my community reflect with humility and gratitude that God has used us to do so much with so few.

But we're really not so few. Why? Again, because Marian priests, brothers, and seminarians are not the only ones on this team. Laymen and women swell our ranks, making the Marian family a massive force for good. Let me give you a concrete example.

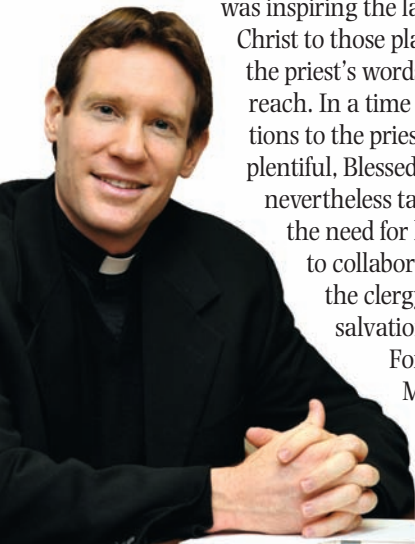
I said I've loved spending these past few years working on Eden Hill as part of a team. Of course, key members of this team are my fellow Marians. But the majority of my teammates here are laypeople. In the office where I work, it's mostly laypeople. Our behind-the-scenes staff and volunteers are mostly laypeople. Finally, so much of our spiritual support and nearly all of our financial means come from laypeople.

This is beautiful. It's exactly what Blessed George envisioned for the Marian community. After all, it was this holy priest who expressed that it is with laypeople and through laypeople that the Marians would be able "to bring Christ everywhere, to restore and renew all things in Christ, to encompass all for Christ, to win all for Christ, to attract all to Christ" (*Journal of George Matulaitis*, p. 32). And that's what's been happening.

In this issue, you'll learn more about the Marians' work with laypeople yesterday, today, and tomorrow. As you read these pages, I pray that you'll find the same joy I have, the joy of being part of a team that's not out to win games but souls. May your prayers and sacrifices continue to make our team spiritually victorious for the greater glory of God.

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





Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC, reflects on our new Pope.

Father Joseph's Mailbox

'He's an apostle of Divine Mercy'

These Marian Helpers shared their excitement about the March 13 election of our new Pope Francis on our websites thedivinemercy.org and allheartsafire.org.

From what I've seen, heard, and read about Pope Francis, I like him a lot already. It's great to see that he is one of Mary's sons and has a great devotion to Our Lady. As well, he is an apostle of Divine Mercy. To me, he's like Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI combined. Pope Francis is like a breath of fresh air in the Catholic Church. He's going to need our prayers, love, support, and encouragement.

— Fr. AC

I hoped and prayed for a Pope who will work toward spreading the message of Divine Mercy around the world.

— E

I thank God Almighty for sending us a new Pope and a humble Pope at that, too. Welcome, Pope Francis, and thank you for saying yes. I will keep you in my prayers.

— ERM

I am so happy we have a new Holy Father who follows the humility and poverty of St. Francis of Assisi.

— PB

I give my warm congratulations to the new Pontiff, Pope Francis. I was excited to learn of his continued support of Divine Mercy and those involved in the devotion. I believe Pope Francis will do a wonderful job as he guides the Catholic Church and the faithful.

— Rev. AEM

Watching the television as Pope Francis was introduced to the world was a very emotional experience for me. He is such a humble and prayerful man. What a witness to the power of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady in our lives.

— LMJ

We are living history. Our amazing God has blessed us with a Pope from the Americas. I believe Pope Francis will bring

healing and peace to our Church. We truly are blessed to be living during times of God's great mercy.

— AD

I watched EWTN and witnessed Pope Francis as he came out to meet the people. I felt the humble love he represented. I have been so happy and contented since he made his appearance. I am not worried about the Church. He, like us, is devoted to the Blessed Mother. I have total trust in her protection of him. Of course, we must all pray, "Jesus, I trust in You."

— ES

I was driving when I heard the announcement. The cheering in the background brought tears to my eyes. I was so happy that the reaction of the crowd was one of jubilation. We have never had a Pope from the Americas, nor have we had a Pope named Francis. I was impressed upon hearing about his humble character. I listened with interest about a cardinal who cooks his own meals, takes the public bus, and lives in an apartment. I was pleased to hear the Pope call on Mary right away. He gave thanks to the Mother of Jesus, our Mother Mary. God bless you, Holy Father Francis, may you be an inspiration to all the world.

— SC

I was so happy to hear the good news. I was praying my Rosary, saying, "Jesus, I trust in You" when I heard the news. Pope Francis, you are in my prayers. I have a strong feeling you are going to be great. God bless you, and may Our Lady of Fatima keep you safe.

— M

I want to encourage everyone to pray for our new Holy Father that he would faithfully shepherd God's people throughout his papacy. It's exciting to note that he has already shown himself to be a Pope of mercy and is also dedicated to Our Lady. See our news feature on page 8 for more about Pope Francis as well as our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

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



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UNDER THE MANTLE

MARIAN THOUGHTS FROM A 21ST CENTURY PRIEST

BY FR. DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC

MARIAN PRESS, 300 PP., \$19.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B19-UTM**



With his characteristic combination of candor, zeal, and insight, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, shares in his new book key lessons for living under Mary Immaculate's mantle as a faithful child of the Church. These lessons are a must read coming from this Marian priest who holds his conference audiences in rapt attention and has touched thousands of souls with his amazing conversion story, *No Turning Back*.

You'll learn how Mary is our pattern or blueprint for what it means to be a fully redeemed human person in love with Jesus Christ. You'll discover why the Blessed Mother is the best way to come to her Son because she is always at the heart of knowing the real Jesus and His authentic teachings. Further, you'll deepen your understanding of Mary and the Church as the bride of Christ and see how you are called as a member of the Church to spiritual marriage with God Himself.

Look inside.

With his focus on helping you live under Mary's mantle, Fr. Donald also offers insightful teachings on the Eucharist, confession, the papacy, priesthood, the Cross of Christ, and Divine Mercy. At the end of subsections in his chapters, he includes powerful quotes about Our Lady from Saints, Blesseds, Venerables, Servants of God, and Popes. These "Marian Gems" are ideal for reflection.

Consider this endorsement for *Under the Mantle* from the Very Rev. Douglas Mosey, CSB, Ph.D., rector of Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Conn.:

Father Calloway masterfully blends together aspects of his own conversion story with profound theological insights into Catholicism, presenting everyone from "Joe-six-pack in the pew" to a seminary rector with incredibly vivid and thought-provoking analogies into why it is so important for a Christian to live under the mantle of Mary. I highly recommend that everyone read this book!

DIVINE MERCY EXPLAINED, THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE EXPLAINED

BOTH BOOKLETS BY FR. MICHAEL E. GAITLEY, MIC

BOTH PUBLISHED BY MARIAN PRESS, 72 PP., \$3.99

PRODUCT CODES: **B19-DMX FOR FIRST; B19-DMIX FOR SECOND**



Look inside. I'm overjoyed to share with everyone I can the Divine Mercy message and devotion, and I do it using popular language in order to reach as many souls as possible. I'm particularly happy to share why Jesus grants so many graces to souls through the Divine Mercy image.

Why? I've seen this message and devotion change the lives of so many people for the better, including that of my own dad, who had a powerful Divine Mercy conversion and then a healing from cancer that involved the image.

All of this should give you some idea of how excited I am to have written these two booklets: *Divine Mercy Explained* and *The Divine Mercy Image Explained*. I'm praying that they will pack a powerful one-two punch in spreading the word, with the first booklet providing a popular overview of all the main aspects of the message and devotion and the second one focusing on the image.

I was particularly encouraged when my friend Vinny Flynn, who has spent several decades in full-time Divine Mercy work, read the manuscript for *Divine Mercy Explained*. He said, "Finally! A quick, clear, and easy way to understand Divine Mercy!"

Let me share in a little more detail about each booklet. *Divine Mercy Explained* covers the history and context for Divine Mercy, the essential elements of the devotion, and how you can live the message. *The Divine Mercy Image Explained* covers the grace, the meaning, and the enthronement of the image.

I encourage you to read first *Divine Mercy Explained* for the overview and then *The Divine Mercy Image Explained*. If you find the booklets inspiring and helpful, share copies with your family and friends. Enjoy!

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Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

How was Blessed George virtuous?

Q. How did your Marian Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis, demonstrate heroic virtue and holiness?

A. Blessed George (1871-1927) suffered from various physical ailments, such as tuberculosis of the bone. He had to wear a leg brace and was often in pain, but those who knew him said that he didn't complain. In spite of the pain, he had a pleasant personality and would often smile. He was approachable, patient, and warm with all whom he met.

Blessed George would rise early in the morning to start his day with prayer. He sought to use his time well and not to waste any of it. He showed great concern for the poor, workers, and orphans — going out of his way to help them and to serve them. He once had to patiently endure insults and disparaging remarks while waiting in a bread line to get food for some orphans.

Before Blessed George renovated the Marian community in 1909-10, he spent many hours in prayer and meditation as he formulated his plan. He also had to secure the permission of the Vatican before proceeding with his plan.

Blessed George served as the Bishop of Vilnius, Lithuania, from 1918-1925, which was a very difficult time because of ethnic and political fighting in his country. Many of his diocesan priests favored one political or ethnic group over another and were sometimes forced to flee when a new regime took over. He sought to remain neutral, so he could minister to all sides.

Once, when a former bishop of the diocese returned from exile, he accused Blessed George in front of a large gathering of clergy of stirring up nationalistic movements in Vilnius and thus dividing the people. This was exactly the opposite of what Blessed George was seeking to do. Everyone in the room froze when they heard this. Blessed George's face flushed, but he maintained his composure and didn't defend himself. Instead, he asked the priests present to join him in kneeling to receive the blessing of His Excellency. I'm not sure that I could have done the same thing! We can all learn from the example of Blessed George.

Q. Since you're stationed in Rome, what was it like to be there for the election of Pope Francis?

A. Living in Rome at the time of the election of Pope Francis was amazing! The day of the election, March 13, one of the priests in our house encouraged us to go to the Vatican that afternoon to pray, to watch for the white smoke, and to experience the atmosphere.

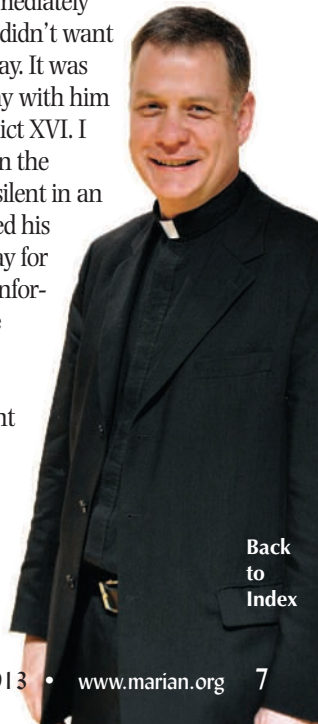
It must have been an inspiration of the Holy Spirit because eight Marian priests and brothers ended up in St. Peter's Square that night. Some of us arrived around 4:30 p.m., and after waiting for more than two-and-a-half hours in the cold and the rain, we were hoping for black smoke! But then the white smoke emerged around 7:10 p.m. We couldn't believe it at first, but when the bells of the Basilica began pealing, we realized that a new Pope had been elected.

Then, we began moving forward to be closer to the Basilica, while thousands of people came running into the Square and quickly filled it. The atmosphere was electric, and the rain stopped so we were able to close our umbrellas.

When Pope Francis finally emerged, he didn't move at first, and he seemed rather shocked and shy. But as he began to speak, he quickly won over the crowd. When he said, "Good evening," we all roared our approval, with the emotions of fans at a sporting event.

But then we were immediately quiet again, because we didn't want to miss what he had to say. It was extremely moving to pray with him for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. I was almost in tears when the crowd went completely silent in an instant as the Pope bowed his head and asked us to pray for him. It was a thrilling, unforgettable experience to be there that night.

I have felt that same excitement at subsequent Masses and gatherings with the new Holy Father. Let's keep him in our prayers.



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



Click for top 10
Mercy Quotes of
Benedict XVI.

Click for top 10
Mercy Quotes of
Pope Francis.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

At his installation Mass on March 19, Pope Francis spoke of us being protectors of each other and of creation with “great tenderness.” He showed this tender mercy by greeting a disabled man in St. Peter’s Square.

‘Lord’s most powerful message: mercy’

Like Benedict XVI, Pope Francis is proclaiming and witnessing to God’s mercy.

by David Came

In marking the papal transition from Benedict XVI to Francis, many bloggers and columnists have commented on the contrast in style from the more reserved and dignified tone of Benedict’s papacy to Francis’s more informal and spontaneous approach. But what many of them haven’t noticed enough is the continuity from Benedict to Francis on matters of faith, such as the imperative of proclaiming God’s mercy, which is the heart of the Gospel.

With Francis, you could even make the case that Divine Mercy has already emerged as a major theme of his papacy, based on his frequent references to mercy in his speeches, homilies, and messages during his first several weeks as Pope. What’s particularly revealing is the way Pope Francis focuses on the “merciful Father” (his title for the parable of the Prodigal Son), speaks of God’s “merciful patience and tenderness” toward us, and encourages us to experience God’s mercy by turning from our sin and brokenness and placing our trust in Jesus.

Gift of ‘true peace’

On March 17, in his first Sunday homily as Pope, Francis emphasized that “the Lord’s

most powerful message” is “mercy.” Then, in his first Divine Mercy Sunday (*Regina Caeli*) message on April 7, the new Pope said that the Risen Christ’s gift of “true peace ... comes from the experience of God’s mercy.” He developed this theme further in his homily for Divine Mercy Sunday at St. John Lateran when he pointed out how the apostle Thomas, the apostle Peter, and the disciples on the way to Emmaus all had life-changing experiences of Divine Mercy through their personal encounters with Jesus.

Pope Francis also chose in his homily for Divine Mercy Sunday to reflect on “the parable of the merciful Father,” saying:

I am always struck when I reread the parable of the merciful Father; it impresses me because it always gives me great hope. ... The Father, with patience, love, hope, and mercy, had never for a second stopped thinking about [the younger son who has left him and squandered his inheritance], and as soon as he sees him still far off, he runs out to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God. ...

God is always waiting for us, He never grows tired. Jesus shows us this merciful patience of God so that we can regain confidence, hope — always!

These strong statements on God's mercy by Pope Francis are reminiscent of those by Pope Benedict, who said on his first Divine Mercy Sunday as Pontiff in 2006, "Divine Mercy is not a secondary devotion but an integral dimension of faith and prayer." Pope Benedict then went so far as to say on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2008, "Indeed, mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message."

Pope's mercy witness

Like his predecessors Benedict XVI and John Paul II, Francis's proclamation of God's mercy is backed by his strong personal witness of mercy toward those in greatest need. For instance, he personally greets the sick and disabled before he celebrates Mass or gives a speech. He even got off the Popemobile in St. Peter's Square before his installation Mass on March 19 to greet and kiss a disabled man.

On Holy Thursday, March 28, instead of washing the feet of priests in a Roman basilica as is typical, he chose to wash the feet of inmates at a youth detention center. The world later learned he had washed the feet of recovering drug addicts on Holy Thursday in 2008 when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The new Pope's commitment to Divine Mercy is summed up in his papal motto, which he used while he was Archbishop in Buenos Aires: "*Miserando atque eligendo.*" The Latin motto means: "Having had mercy, He [Christ] called him." According to a March 18 report of Catholic News Service, the motto was inspired by St. Bede the Venerable's commentary on Matthew's Gospel. The particular passage that spoke to Pope Francis was where Jesus on seeing Matthew the tax collector, looked on him with love and said, "Follow Me" (Mt 9:9).

Interestingly, the motto has its roots in Francis's vocation to the Jesuits and can be viewed as his own personal experience of God's mercy in his youth. As Catholic News Service reported, "On the feast of St. Matthew in

1953, the young Jorge Mario Bergoglio experienced at the age of 17 ... the loving presence of God in his life. Following a confession, his heart was touched and [he] felt the descent of the mercy of God, that with eyes of tender love, he was being called to the religious life, after the example of St. Ignatius of Loyola."

Pope Benedict's legacy

It's fascinating that Pope Francis's personal experience of Divine Mercy in finding his vocation as a Jesuit has a poignant parallel to Benedict's experience of God's mercy on assuming the papacy. This becomes clear when we consider that on April 20, 2005, the day after his election, Benedict said in his first papal message:

Dear friends ... deep gratitude for a gift of Divine Mercy is uppermost in my heart in spite of it all. And I consider it a special grace which my venerable predecessor, John Paul II, has obtained for me.

Spurred on by this "gift of Divine Mercy," Pope Benedict XVI, who is now our Pope Emeritus, achieved milestones for

Divine Mercy. Among them, he continued John Paul II's tradition of giving a message on God's mercy each year on Divine Mercy Sunday. He established World Apostolic Congresses on Mercy in the Church, celebrating the opening Mass for the first World Congress in Rome in 2008 and giving the participants his Divine Mercy "mandate" after its conclusion. Further, he beatified Pope John Paul II on May 1, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday, noting that the date was "very significant" since John Paul II had died on the vigil of the feast day and had established it as a universal feast day.

In all these ways and many more, we might even consider Benedict XVI as the guarantor of John Paul II's rich legacy of Divine Mercy. To learn more, read *Pope Benedict's Divine Mercy Mandate*. (See ordering information on page 28.)

May Pope Benedict's Divine Mercy "mandate" inspire you — as it did the participants at the first World Mercy Congress — to "go forth and be witnesses of God's mercy, a source of hope for every person and for the whole world." By living the mandate, you will be honoring Benedict's own legacy as a Pope of mercy. MH



Pope Benedict in his Divine Mercy mandate called us to "be witnesses of God's mercy, a source of hope for every person and for the whole world."

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Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, signs an agreement with Mark Middendorf, co-founder of Lighthouse. Lighthouse and the Marians forged a relationship whereby Marian materials are now being offered through Lighthouse kiosks in 5,000 parishes throughout North America.

Divine Mercy resources for parishes

'Church kiosk' partnership helps Marians spread message to many more parishes.

by Felix Carroll

Catechesis by kiosk. It plays a huge role in the Church's evangelization efforts. Now, by the grace of God, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception are at the forefront of it.

The kiosks in question are those in the back of many churches that, traditionally, hold CDs, pamphlets, prayercards, and books on such topics as the Sacraments, forgiveness, devotions, and prayers. Parishioners are invited to avail themselves of the materials. God seems to do the rest.

Take, for instance, one young man who was contemplating suicide. Then, he listened to a CD obtained from a Lighthouse Catholic Media church kiosk. It helped to save his life, and he recently entered the seminary.

"If someone says one CD can't make a difference, we have story after story of how God uses it to change people's lives," says Mark Middendorf, co-founder of Lighthouse.

This brings us to one of the most exciting initiatives in recent years for the Marian Fathers. Earlier this year, Lighthouse and the Marians forged a relationship whereby Marian materials are now being offered through

Lighthouse kiosks.

The Marians will benefit from Lighthouse's presence in more than 5,000 parishes throughout North America. Indeed, since Lighthouse's founding eight years ago, it has distributed more than 8 million CDs alone that feature such names as Dr. Scott Hahn, Matthew Kelly, and Fr. Robert Barron.

"This is truly Divine Providence at work for us," says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

Blessed George's mission realized

The timing of the Marian-Lighthouse partnership is profound. It comes just as the Marians and Marian Helpers prepare this summer to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Congregation's first established house in the United States.

Such collaboration with the laity for the sake of evangelization is just the sort of effort Marian Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis, would have encouraged as he established his renewed Congregation in America. (See the cover story.) In fact, since the Marians' earliest years in the United States, they have sought to realize

Blessed George's mission through such evangelization efforts, especially in publishing.

Through prayercards, newsletters, and pamphlets; books, such as the *Diary of St. Faustina*; films, such as *Time for Mercy*; DVDs, such as Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC's *Extreme Mercy*; magazines, such as *Marian Helper*, the Marians' publishing apostolate has helped attract hundreds of thousands of Marian Helpers. Many of those Helpers, in turn, spread the Marians' charism, which includes promoting the Divine Mercy message and devotion, praying for the souls in purgatory, and enkindling in others a greater devotion to Mary Immaculate.

Clearly, not a coincidence

As Fr. Michael suggests, Divine Providence stands as the only credible explanation for the collaboration with Lighthouse.

A little more than a year ago, Mark Middendorf had never heard of Fr. Michael. But in a single day, two people gave him Fr. Michael's bestselling book *33 Days to Morning Glory* (Marian Press, 2012) and recommended that Lighthouse distribute it. That very same day, Mark also received an e-mail from someone praising the book.

"I try to be open to the Holy Spirit," Mark says.

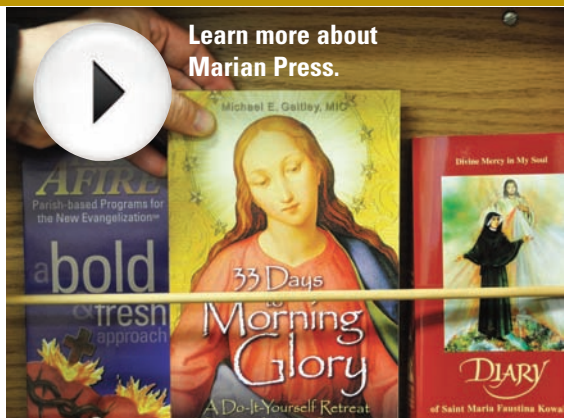
So he decided to call his good friend, Terry Barber, a fellow co-founder of Lighthouse and founder of Saint Joseph's Communications.

"Terry," said Mark, "what can you tell me about Fr. Michael Gaitley? Do you know him?"

"Know him?" responded Terry. "I'm having lunch with him today."

And so the relationship began.

That the connection came about through *33 Days to Morning Glory* — a do-it-yourself retreat of consecration to Jesus through Mary — could not have been coincidence either. It so happens Mark had been encouraging all of his employees, including Lighthouse's 600-plus account managers throughout the country, to make either St. Louis de Montfort's or St. Maximilian Kolbe's famous Marian consecration. That was before he read *33 Days*, which he now promotes.



Learn more about
Marian Press.

There will be "Divine Mercy Resources" modules in Lighthouse kiosks in parishes. Also, look for materials on the Marians' Hearts Afire initiative.

In addition, Mark has a devotion to Divine Mercy, such that each weekday, the employees at Lighthouse's headquarters in Sycamore, Ill., pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together at 3 p.m.

"The Marians and we at Lighthouse share a common mission," says Mark. "This is all an answer to my prayers."

A great demand for Divine Mercy

Here is how the kiosk program works: For a nominal fee, parishes purchase materials through Lighthouse and then offer the materials for a suggested donation to parishioners.

Anticipating a huge hunger for the Marians' Divine Mercy materials, Lighthouse has introduced a new "Divine Mercy Resources" module that fits onto its freestanding kiosks.

In addition, the kiosks now promote the Marians' new Hearts Afire initiative — a small-group, parish-based, faith renewal program inspired by Blessed John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization."

"God has given us a great gift through our partnership with Lighthouse," says Fr. Michael. "Now we're able to reach even more of the laity. I can imagine Blessed George smiling down on us." **For parishes interested in installing kiosks, call Lighthouse Catholic Media at 1-866-767-3155. For those interested in starting the Hearts Afire program, call 1-877-200-HAPP or visit AllHeartsAfire.org.** MH

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Bring the message of Divine Mercy to your parish



Invite the Marians to speak about Divine Mercy. For information, call 1-866-895-3236 or e-mail parishmissions@marian.org.



See video of
Blessed George.



In 1926, Archbishop George Matulaitis is received at Our Lady of Vilnius Parish in Chicago, Ill. By that time, there were more than 20 Marian Fathers' Auxiliaries (composed of lay supporters) in U.S. parishes.

100 years of freedom, fruitfulness in USA

The Marians and their lay supporters in America celebrate a special centennial.

by Fr. Joseph, MIC

Freedom. Fruitfulness. The USA. These three things go together for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. And now, 100 years after the establishment of the Marian Congregation in America, is a perfect time to reflect on an amazing story for the life of the Church.

Before freedom

Before the 100 years of freedom in the USA, the Marian Congregation suffered more than 100 years of persecution in Europe. From the pride of partitioning powers who wiped Poland-Lithuania off the map, to the devastation brought on by the tri-color troops of Napoleon, to the relentless harassment of the Czar of Russia, the Marian Congregation went from a high point of 147 members in 1781 to just one member by 1910.

One member. That's all that was left of a once vibrant and thriving community — and he was dying. Of course, the Czar and his men were quite satisfied with themselves as they prepared to celebrate the long-awaited demise of another Catholic religious congregation. In fact, when Fr.

Vincent Senkus, the last of the Marians who wore the white habit, finally did die in 1911, the enemies of the Church surely did rejoice. But theirs wasn't the final word.

Little did the Czar and his anti-Catholic men know, but an intelligent, hard-working priest had given up the promise of prestigious positions in the Church to save the Marians in secret. Little did they know that Fr. George Matulaitis of Lithuania was re-establishing and renovating the old white Marians, refashioning them to be an exponentially greater force for Christ and the Church.

The only problem was that the new Marians had to lay low and keep quiet, even after Blessed George moved the training of his men to the free nation of Switzerland — for even in Switzerland, the Czar's spies were on the lookout.

But George's plans for the Marians were certainly not about laying low and keeping quiet. He wanted to bring the greatest possible glory to God; he wanted to work for the salvation of countless souls, and he wanted his men to be filled with a zeal that would set all afire. So, what did he do? He moved some of his men to

America, where they would be free to be everything he wanted them to be.

Freedom in America

On July 12, 1913, Blessed George arrived in America with two other Marians, Frs. Felix Kudirka and Julian Kazakas, to establish the first Marian house of the renovated Congregation. He had been invited there by Fr. Anthony Staniukynas, who wanted to join the Marians and had offered them a place to stay in Chicago. Once in Chicago, Blessed George presented himself to the archbishop there, the Most Rev. Edward Quigley, who warmly welcomed the Marians to his archdiocese and even offered them a parish.

Then, only about a month after their arrival, on August 18, 1913, the first house of the new Marian Congregation was formally established in Chicago — 100 years ago.

The importance of this event shouldn't be overlooked. It was in America, with her freedom of religion, that the new Marians could finally be who they were meant to be. And who were they meant to be?

According to Blessed George, the Marians are called to serve the Church

where the need is greatest. And in his opinion, "One of the most pressing needs of our time ... is to involve larger groups of people from every segment of society in a more active apostolate for the faith and the growth and defense of the Church" (*Journal*, p. 46). Indeed, he believed that by gathering laypeople around them, the Marians could give even greater glory to God and serve the Church better. But simply gathering people wasn't what he had in mind. Rather, he said that the "special characteristic" of the Marians in their work with laypeople is "to organize, unite, and direct them toward the task of spreading the faith and defending the Church" (*Ibid.*, p. 47).

And that's exactly what the Marians have been doing in the USA for the last 100 years, thanks to the great gift of religious freedom found here. And this gift of freedom, allowing the Marians to be who they were meant to be, allowing the Marians to unite with the laity for the work of evangelization, has led to a tremendous amount of fruit for Christ and the Church.

100 years of fruitfulness

"The laity must come to the aid of the clergy," said Blessed George, "so that both could work together in this most important task of spreading true Catholic teaching" (*Ibid.*, p. 82). The laity have come; indeed, they have responded with amazing generosity to this call. In fact, it would be an understatement to say that they have been a major part of the work of the Marian Fathers in the USA for the past 100 years.

From the "Marian Fathers' Auxiliaries" of yesteryear in Chicago area parishes, to our present-day "Association of Marian Helpers," to our lay staff on Eden Hill, to lay cooperators in our Marian Congregation known as "*vir aggregati*," laypeople have been part of the very heart and mission of the Marian Fathers from



Father Walter Pelczynski, MIC (center and inset), leads a pilgrimage for Marian Helpers in 1960. He was founding director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

the beginning of our establishment in America. Recognizing this contribution, in what follows, I'd like to briefly trace some of the high points of our collaborative efforts, so that, looking back on the last 100 years, we may give thanks to God for blessing our labors and sacrifices with so much fruitfulness.

We'll start our review by looking at what was formerly called the St. Casimir Province, which grew up around the Chicago area. There, the Marians worked with the laity in establishing the Marian Fathers' Auxiliaries and many other societies and groups of laypeople that supported the Marians in spreading the faith. Most notable among these is the publishing apostolate of a daily newspaper *Draugas*, which continues to serve the local Church in Chicago, and is staffed by a team of dedicated laypeople and overseen by the Marians. The Marians also founded and ran several Catholic schools that included many lay staff.

In the former St. Stanislaus Province headquartered in Stockbridge, Mass., where the



FELIX CARROLL

The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC (center), speaks with the laity during the second World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Lagiewniki, Poland, in October 2011. Laity came with the Marians to the Congress.

promulgation of the Divine Mercy message and devotion was a top priority, millions of laypeople have stood with dozens of Marians to spread the word of Divine Mercy not just throughout the United States but to the entire world. It was predominantly laypeople who helped the Marians to purchase Eden Hill, build the Shrine, and establish the Mercy of God Apostolate, which became the Association of Marian Helpers. These Marian Helpers, many of whom were also parish promoters, international promoters, Divine Mercy Sunday volunteers, and supporters of the Divine Mercy Apostolates (also composed of laypeople) were all part of a Marian army that has helped set the world on fire with the message of God's merciful love.

Today and tomorrow

Now today, with the former St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus Kostka Provinces joined as one in the Mother of Mercy Province, the Marians continue their labors for Christ and the Church in the USA, surrounded by the assistance of countless laypeople who have been inspired by the Marian spirit. This new province, which was established in 2007, also includes the vicariate of Argentina, where the Marian spirit likewise inspires a growing number of laity there to serve Christ with the Marian Fathers. And from Eden Hill in Stockbridge, which is the headquarters of the new province, the Marians continue to forge bonds of friendship and collaboration with laypeople.

You can read about some of these newest relationships in other articles in this issue: One of them details collaboration for ministry between Lighthouse Catholic Media and our

Hearts Afire Program. Another describes an exciting partnership between the Marians and Divine Mercy Team. These two organizations, Lighthouse Catholic Media and Divine Mercy Team, are composed entirely of laypeople. They will now be helping the Marians, potentially, to reach even more people with the message of Divine Mercy.

Moreover, the Hearts Afire Program continues a "most important work" of the Marians, namely, the work of gathering, forming, and sending out laypeople for the work of evangelization. In fact, Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, one of our apostolates, has a cenacle formation program that also gathers and forms the laity.

As I conclude this article, I can't help but think of my lay executive director here at the Marian Helpers Center, Francis Bourdon, who is just now retiring after 23 years of faithful service. In our next issue, you'll hear more about Fran and the work he has done with the Marians. Until then, I'd like to express my gratitude to him for his years of sacrifice and dedication.

I also want to thank all the Marian Helpers who are reading this article. Without you, we couldn't do what we do. With you, it's become clear that Blessed George was absolutely right. He wanted to give the greatest possible glory to God, and he knew that while one priest alone could only do so much, one priest with an army of laypeople could change the world. By the grace of God, through Mary's intercession, and from the USA, that's what has happened in the last 100 years. May the next 100 years bear even more fruit for Christ and the Church. **MH**

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Donate images for poor

Eric Mahl ministered to the homeless in Cleveland, Ohio, for a year. Now, as Fr. Joseph, MIC's liaison to religious communities serving the poor, he wanted to share this story about bringing Divine Mercy to the poor.

"In the *Diary*, Jesus tells St. Faustina, '[Miserable] souls have a right of priority to My compassionate Heart, they have first access to My mercy' (1541). The Lord also says, 'I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.' (47). These two messages from the Lord come together so perfectly in our ministry of bringing Divine Mercy images to the poor," Eric said.

"I called some sisters who work with the poor in the Bronx, and I asked them if I could bring them some Divine Mercy images. They weren't expecting canvas images that have been gallery-wrapped. They were awed by how beautiful they were.

"Then, they told me that I had no idea of the perfect timing of my visit. They said they are trying to catechize people who are involved in Santeria, which is a religion similar to voodoo. It combines the worship of pagan deities with the Roman Catholic saints, whom we are called to venerate, not worship. A lot of people get lost in this evil.



Gallery-wrapping the image.

Fulfilling Fr. Joseph's dream to get gallery-wrapped, canvas Divine Mercy images to the poor, Eric Mahl assembles an image at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass.

"So the sisters are trying to gather these idols and images to destroy them. But the sisters said, 'Now when we go to their homes to take these images and pagan idols away, we can present them with an image of the Divine Mercy. This image is so beautiful that we can hang it in their home, and it can be something that they are very proud of.'

"When I was leaving, I could see the sisters carrying these images down the street. They couldn't wait to get them into the hands of the poor.

"In many cities around our country, the poor have plenty of ways to get food, shelter, and clothing, but this is an opportunity to bring them Jesus and the message of Divine Mercy. I've talked to many people in homeless shelters, and they are desperate for spiritual consolation. They can get the other basics to life, but they hunger to grow closer to Jesus and His mercy."

Please consider making a donation to help spiritually feed the poor.



Special offer: Canvas Divine Mercy images for \$19.95

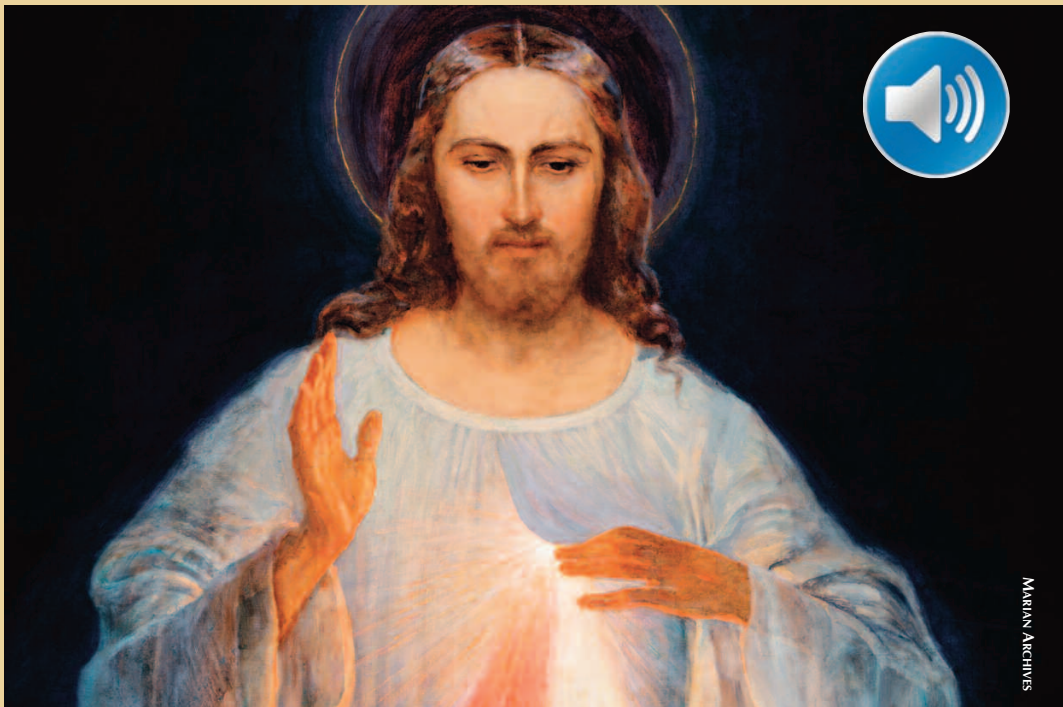
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MARIAN ARCHIVES

Phil Skikos's mother displayed a version of the Vilnius Divine Mercy image in their home. He says he figured that if that's what Jesus looked like, it was no wonder His disciples dropped everything to follow Him.

FROM CHILDHOOD WONDER TO MINISTRY

How the Divine Mercy image inspired a man's 'team effort' to make it better known.

by Felix Carroll

Like nearly everyone growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in the United States, Phil Skikos knew nothing about the Polish nun named Sr. Faustina Kowalska, whose revelations in the 1930s would help lead the world to a richer understanding of Jesus Christ.

But unlike nearly everyone in the U.S., his mother kept a certain picture of Jesus on the wall that depicted the Merciful Savior resplendently stepping from darkness. Phil liked the picture — a lot. He figured that if that's what Jesus really looked like, it was no wonder His disciples dropped everything to follow Him.

Phil didn't know at the time that the picture was a reproduction of a painting done under the direction of that Polish nun, Sr. Faustina, a future saint chosen by Christ to record His message of Divine Mercy for modern times. Certainly, he had no clue Jesus, through Faustina, commanded that this image be spread throughout the world, promising many graces to those who gaze upon it with their hearts open to His presence and power.

Making the image known

Fast-forward half a century, and that image of Jesus the Merciful Savior has become among the top three most famous holy images in the

world, along with the Holy Shroud of Turin and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Phil, himself, has played no small role in making known that image, which we recognize today as the image of Divine Mercy.

Since 2005, his not-for-profit organization in Santa Rosa, Calif., called Divine Mercy Team, has been responsible for gathering, packing, and shipping some 40 million Divine Mercy images to people around the world — all done from an office space smaller than your average studio apartment, and all through a staff of half a dozen volunteers. When Phil tallies his endeavor's extraordinary successes, he prefaces that all the credit goes to Christ.

Indeed, he and ministry co-founder, Barbara Wold, use the word "Team" in the ministry's moniker for good reason: There is no "I" in team. Through God's graces, the "team effort" has just exponentially expanded, with Divine Mercy Team's mammoth efforts now cross-pollinating with the extraordinary efforts of the Marian Congregation, for whom Divine Mercy evangelization has been a central ministry since 1941. In March, Divine Mercy Team and the Marians officially joined forces.

Partnering with the Marians

What does this mean? A lot. That is to say, a lot of images going out into the world, just as Christ intended.

“Divine Mercy Team has been distributing about 5 million prayercards a year — despite no advertising and no marketing,” marvels Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “With our outreach added, we expect to ship upwards of 20 million a year.

“This partnership,” continues Fr. Michael, “represents one of the largest initiatives in the history of the Divine Mercy movement, because we’re getting the image out at unbelievably low prices to people who will pass them on to others who, in turn, will spread Divine Mercy.”

(For example, a box of 1,000 Divine Mercy prayercards cost \$14.95, including shipping. Learn more by visiting the Marians’ website DivineMercyArt.com.)

As much as the Divine Mercy image is rich in meaning — that is, it speaks of Baptism and reconciliation and Jesus as the High Priest — Christ makes it clear it was never meant merely as a doctrinal reminder. Rather, He had it created to awaken mankind’s deepest yearnings. In the image, Jesus doesn’t merely beckon us to return to Him; rather, He is shown taking the initiative, stepping forward from the darkness as if to rescue us. Moreover, He doesn’t point fingers; rather, He blesses us, whether we’re ready to repent or not.

“The image touches so many lives, so many people,” says Phil. “We see that. Father Michael sees that. Jesus promises us through St. Faustina that ‘the soul that will venerate this image will not perish’ (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 48). That’s why we’re making such an effort to get this image out into the world.”

Getting prayercards into the churches

Since the beginning of his ministry, Phil understood that the best way to promote the image was by getting prayercards into the churches. To that end, most of his customers buy the prayercards in bulk and place them in parish entrances, offered free to all. Divine Mercy Team, at its own expense, also sends

prayercards to hospitals, military bases, nursing homes, suicide prevention centers, prisons, and drug rehabilitation centers.

It’s worth noting, Phil makes no money from his ministry. He makes his living selling window covers and shutters, which is rather ironic for a man whose eyes are trained on the wide world and beyond — spiritually speaking. Partnering with the Marians has been his goal for years. When he met Fr. Michael at a confer-



Phil Skikos, left, and Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, show some of the Divine Mercy materials that Phil’s Divine Mercy Team is shipping to customers worldwide as it partners with the Marians.

ence in California last year, a friendship and partnership was formed.

Under terms of the agreement, Divine Mercy Team is now reproducing and distributing Marian artwork — especially the Marians’ latest restored Divine Mercy images — in the form of prayercards and in larger sizes for other materials. The Marians pay all printing and shipping costs. The small margin of profit all goes toward helping to fund the Marians’ Divine Mercy evangelization efforts.

It’s Phil’s plan that the name Divine Mercy Team will eventually be history as his ministry is subsumed under the Marians.

Gearing up for the surge in orders, Divine Mercy Team has moved its operations to a 2,500-square-foot office space owned by Phil’s brother Pete, who runs an adjacent trucking company. The new space will house printing presses. Until now, Divine Mercy Team’s printing was done through an outside company.

During a visit with Phil earlier this year, Fr. Michael and he were elated about the opportunity God has given them.

Things are going to get very busy, very quickly. “Are you going to be ready?” Fr. Michael asked Phil, smiling.

“We’ll be ready,” he replied.

MH

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FELIX CARROLL

Felix Carroll talks about his book.



Wayne Smith is the epitome of the blind man who sees. He met his wife, Miriam (above), following his conversion. Together, they run their Catholic ministry, Not By Sight Media, which shares Wayne's testimony.

From verge of suicide to Mercy's embrace

Discover how Wayne Smith learned to live not by sight, but by faith.

by Felix Carroll

The following is an excerpt from the new Marian Press title, *Loved, Lost, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions*.

His retinas take in nothing more than a little light set against shadow. His blind man's cane *click-click-clicks* out ahead of him, probing for clear passage on unfamiliar terrain, out onto the rocks at water's edge at Belmont Harbor where he has come to kill himself.

How will he do it? He'll take one last breath, exhale, and simply jump off the rocks and go under. He'll sink to the bottom, open his mouth, fill his airways with water, and let his bodily reflexes foolishly fight for his survival. That's the plan, anyway.

Cough. Yes, he'll cough underwater. He'll have to. His body will attempt to get that water back out where it belongs, back into that huge lake whose luminescent green-blues he could make out up until the age of 8, when he last could see color, back before his sense of humor grew scornful, back when he first sensed life would not be easy.

Breathe in. The body will fight to survive.

The mind will fight to die. He's always been hardheaded. The mind will win this one, he'll tell himself. But first he'll have to yield to this one final offense — having to breathe when he no longer wants to breathe. His body will want to draw in air; it will discover only water. It'll be of no use.

Will it hurt? He doesn't know. Maybe he'll go unconscious before it does. Maybe he'll go into cardiac arrest. The *Chicago Tribune* will probably publish a small item on it, right? About how the body of a 40-year-old blind man was fished out from Lake Michigan. The newspaper blurb will be cut to fit, depending on who was murdered that day or which politician was charged with graft. Maybe the discovery of his body will garner 150 words? Maybe 200? What's the suicide of a blind man worth in editorial space?

The tip of his cane finally slaps against water. *It's snowing, isn't it? Yes, it is.* He turns back around and can make out the broad-shouldered skyline of Chicago. *It really is magnificent, isn't it? All those vertical lines from here to the heavens, plumb against the gush of light from a November sky.* Somewhere in that maze of streets — all

that steel and pavement, all those doorways, all those voices, all those shadows he mistakes for solid objects, and all those solid objects he mistakes for shadows — is the wife he no longer loves. And a 5-year-old son he loves, but not enough to overcome his self-pity and despair. And fools who believe in God.

When he hesitates, he hears a voice: “Don’t think about it, just do it!” the voice says.

He sets down his cane, takes in a deep breath like he’s smelling a bouquet of roses, and then he exhales as if he’s blowing out his birthday candles.

Goodbye, Chicago.

He jumps. He disappears under the surface.



Directly behind the ark that holds the Torah scrolls in the reformed Jewish temple of his youth, Wayne Smith one day discovered a small closet, and inside that small closet was a soft drink machine. He was the temple goffer, an energetic boy who sought to please. From then on, while worshippers assembled each week presumably in reverence to the Torah and the Word of God, he was thinking about a Coca-Cola. Behind all the solemnity and ritual of the Sabbath — literally behind all those written laws of the Torah, all those dizzying lists of faceless names and foreign tribes, all those covenants and reckonings, comings and goings, sin and death, punishment and wrath — there was

COURTESY OF
WAYNE SMITH



Before his deteriorating eyesight prohibited it, Wayne worked as a photographer, aided by a closed-circuit television system developed for the visually impaired. He was able to use the machine to read, write, make out checks, and review graphics by placing the material under a camera and enlarging the material on the TV screen. Above, he reviews a photo he took of his niece, Alison.

something sweet and simple: a soft drink. All the wonders of the Lord, whatever they might be, couldn’t stand a chance.

Long before he convinced himself there was no reason to be on this earth, Wayne Smith had convinced himself there was no reason to believe in God. It was 1959, to be precise. He was 14 years old. The facts were stacked in his favor. These people, neighbors and friends, gathered at the temple each week, but why? Out of faith? Because of tradition? Or worst of all, for appearances only? Whatever the case, his mother would lead him and his younger brother, Gary, to



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temple each week. He learned Scripture. A bit, anyway, and he wasn't encouraged to ask too many questions. He and Gary giggled when their mother would lay an elbow into the ribcage of their snoring father. That was all fine. But then it wasn't all fine.

Any kid who's curious about life and how to live it eventually asks the big questions, the obvious questions. And if you're a sensitive kid who discovers a soft drink machine behind the Torah, it stands to reason you'll begin to chaff at taking large matters at face value.

Maybe as his sight progressively worsened, his hearing became acute. He tuned in when the rabbi gave a particularly searing sermon, like the one concerning the sin of gossip. The Hebrews have their own lexicon for the degrees of damage inflicted by the evil tongue. *Lashon Hara*: any derogatory or damaging statement. *Rechilut*: any communication that generates animosity between people. Look what happened to the prophetess Miriam in the Book of Exodus when she spoke ill of Moses because of his choice for a wife. God punished her with leprosy. It's right there in Scripture, Wayne would think to himself. Could it be any clearer?

So what happened after this fiery sermon? Wayne was out in the lobby of the temple, and what does he hear? It seemed like in almost every conversation — gossip, whispers, the wagging of tongues.

Religion? This is where the hope of humanity resides?

Really?

There's a good life to be had for those who follow God's commandments and eagerly await Him?

Really?

"This is garbage," Wayne thought to himself. "There's no God. People come here because it's a tradition or because it's socially obligatory. It means nothing to them. There's no presence of God here."



He's fully clothed. The water bears down upon his body. He's sinking. The water temperature has to be somewhere in the low 40s, right? But he's not cold. Amazing, isn't it? Not cold at all!



The year he blows out 14 candles, he wishes for a medical breakthrough. Fourteen years old and he's already figured everything out. He's



COURTESY OF WAYNE SMITH

Wayne, 3, with his father, Melvin, squints through thick glasses. As the years went by, his eyeglasses would get thicker and thicker, and the world around him would grow darker — in more ways than one.

sharp as a tack, proud of his bold conclusions, a raw recruit to the bottomlands of atheism.

Fourteen years old, and his world is about to be rocked. Neither his father nor his mother accompanied him on his eye appointment. Wayne wasn't surprised that his father declined to take him; Wayne felt he never measured up to his father's expectations. Rarely could Wayne even catch a baseball. But his mother? Marital problems seemed to have rearranged her priorities. Wayne took the bus downtown by himself. After a quick exam, his ophthalmologist didn't pussyfoot around.

"What do you know about your disease?"

Not much, was the answer. He knew his grandfather had the same disease, but still his grandfather elected to marry and have children. His grandfather was an attorney. He had friends. He lived a full life.

Called *retinitis pigmentosa*, the disease — a congenital deterioration of the retina — is hereditary. Armed with new genetic information — not all of it accurate — the doctor informed Wayne that because his condition is hereditary, if he were to have male children, they'd have the disease, and if he had female children, they'd be carriers of the disease. Oh,

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

and within 20 years, Wayne will see nothing but shadows and light, and even those he'll see only barely.

When Wayne walked out of the doctor's office onto Michigan Avenue, he felt like he had just been given a death sentence. He was going to be blind. Lights out.

He had forsaken Judaism, and there was no God. He was alone on Michigan Avenue, and his future literally was going to be very dark.



"Woe unto me."

Didn't Job say that?

"Woe is me now."

Didn't some woman in Leviticus say that?

What's her name?



In school, his affliction increasingly stood out. He wore thick glasses — bottle-glass thick. He could only see through the very center of his lenses, so his head had this natural movement, bobbing and weaving, in an effort for his eyes to piece together a fuller picture of the world before him. Some of the kids took sadistic pleasure in imitating his involuntary head movements. Sometimes, they'd be met with a punch. Wayne had a handicap, true. But he also had a temper and zero tolerance for jerks. Thusly, he spent plenty of time sitting on the radiator in the principal's office. He was a battler.



Water isn't gushing into his lungs as he expected. He rises to the surface and treads the choppy water. He's not chickening out. Not at all. He's determined for the waters to take him. It's Lake Michigan after all. Ships have gone under here. Lots of them: steamers, schooners, car ferries, yachts.

People drown in these waters every year. Even in the calm waters of summertime. Therefore, drowning on purpose should be a cinch, shouldn't it?

He exhales deeply and disappears till there's nothing but the choppy waves of Lake Michigan, notoriously reluctant to give up its dead.

To learn how Wayne was shown mercy and then chose life instead of death, read *Loved, Lost, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions*. To order the book, call toll-free 1-800-462-7426 or shop online: marian.org/catalog. Ask for code B19-LLF16. The price is \$14.95 plus S&H. MH

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this booklet
can help.

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WORKS



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about making
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Amid summer and fall events, Shrine to focus on children

by Felix Carroll

The souls of children will take top priority this summer and early fall at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., with two of the Shrine's many events geared toward two tragedies. The first tragedy concerns the shooting rampage last December at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. The second concerns the broader tragedy of our times: the tragedy of faith not being passed down from generation to generation.

The Marians will hold a Memorial Mass on Saturday, July 20, for the 20 schoolchildren, plus six adults, killed in Newtown on Dec. 12.

"This will be a Mass of painful remembrance and merciful healing," says Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC. "Our hearts went out to these children and their families when this tragedy occurred. We will not let them be forgotten."

To that end, in addition to the Memorial Mass, the Marians have etched the names of each of the slain children on the walls of Eden Hill's Shrine of the Holy Innocents. The six murdered adults will also be memorialized in the Shrine of the Holy Innocents, which is located in the lower level of the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

The Marians will unveil and bless the memorials at the event on July 20.

A call to grandparents

Later in the summer, the Marians will draw attention to the crisis of faith in families. The event on Sept. 8 is Grandparents Day. The Marians have invited a local chapter of the Catholic Grandparents' Association to lead a day of prayer. Through prayer and outreach, the Association calls upon grandparents to take on the vocation of being that crucial link in passing on the faith.

"The group was founded due to the expressed concern of grandparents that they won't see their grandchildren in heaven because they are being raised with no understanding of God," says Lois Fusco, the Shrine's pilgrimage coordinator.

Ethnic days, talks, and more

As is the case each summer and early fall, the Shrine's calendar is packed with special events that draw thousands of pilgrims from all over North America. Through early fall, the Shrine has scheduled the following special events:



The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, speaks to the pilgrims at the Shrine's 2012 St. Faustina feast day celebration. This year, the Marians mark on Oct. 5 the 75th anniversary of the saint's death.

- **June 2** — Solemn Corpus Christi Procession after 10:30 a.m. Mass
- **June 9** — Portuguese Speakers Day
- **June 15** — "Led by Faith" Springfield Diocesan-wide Celebration
- **June 22** — "Why Catholicism Is the One True Faith," a talk by Marian seminarian Br. Chris Alar, MIC
- **June 29** — Filipino Day
- **July 20** — Memorial Mass for the Sandy Hook shooting victims
- **July 27** — "Living Our Faith: An Encounter with the Divine Mercy," led by Marian seminarians
- **Aug. 17** — The ninth annual *Encuentro Latino* celebration
- **Sept. 7** — Vietnamese Day
- **Sept. 8** — Grandparents Day
- **Sept. 14** — Haitian Heritage Day
- **Sept. 22** — Polish Afternoon
- **Oct. 5** — Feast of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (this year, on Oct. 5, the Marians will mark the 75th anniversary of her death).

Each day, pilgrims will have the opportunity to partake in the Shrine's daily schedule of Holy Masses, confession, Eucharistic adoration, and praying the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

"I want people who visit the Shrine to be spiritually uplifted," said Fr. Ken. "While it's wonderful to visit for an event or to appreciate the beauty of the grounds, what's most important is to make a real connection with God."

For up-to-date information on Shrine events, please visit thedinivemercy.org/shrine or call (413) 298-3931.

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Inspiration for pilgrims — Station to Station

Just as expected, Eden Hill's life-size Stations of the Cross, unveiled last September, are providing pilgrims with a powerful spiritual experience.

"I went from Station to Station and was just moved to tears," says Alison Rose from Long Island, N.Y., who visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy last November. "I had always struggled with doing the Stations because I would find my mind wandering."

But, she says, it's impossible for your mind to wander when walking Eden Hill's Stations "because it's so visceral. It's as if Christ is walking the road to Calvary right before your eyes, and all you can do is pray and try to be like the Blessed Mother in loving Him and seeking to console Him and just be with Him."

From Jesus being sentenced to death to His body being placed in the sepulcher, the 14 Stations begin and end near the entrance to the Shrine. In all, 52 bronze sculptures by the



On April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday, pilgrims pause to reflect before one of the 14 life-size Stations of the Cross on Eden Hill.

classically trained Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz comprise the Stations, which are set against breathtaking mountain views of western Massachusetts. The project, three years in the making, was funded by a generous gift from Marian Helpers Tom and Charlene Welch.

The Stations, says Anita Morris of Schenectady, N.Y., "speak to Jesus' love for us. Just look at what He did for us."

Despite chill, many pilgrims attend weekend

Braving biting winds and chilly temperatures, more than 24,000 pilgrims from throughout North America and beyond came to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy to celebrate the annual Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend on April 7-8.

The celebration included talks, live music, and opportunities for confession and Eucharistic Adoration. The weekend was capped off with Holy Mass on Sunday that was broadcast around the world on EWTN Catholic Global Network.

The Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and a longtime supporter of the Marian

Fathers, served as the principal celebrant on Sunday. In his homily, he said that many people today live their lives "as if God does not exist. ... People often live their lives as if this [life on earth] is all there is." Nonetheless, God, in His goodness, doesn't give up on us. Rather, "He redeems us through His love and mercy, which is, alone, the source of relief and hope."

He said, "The hour has come on this day of peace and humility to bring the message of God's mercy to everyone ... to become part of a new civilization, a civilization of love."

For full coverage of the celebration, visit thedivinemercy.org/ewtn.

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National Shrine of The Divine Mercy
Saturday, Aug. 17
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www.ladivinamisericordia.org/encuentrolatino

Encuentro Latino 2013

All events will be in Spanish. For more information or to register a bus, call 1-800-462-7426, ext. 3.

SPIRITUAL SONS OF MARY

Marian seminarians share their devotion to Our Lady.

by Andrew Leeco

As we honor Mary during her month of May, several Marian seminarians took some time out of their busy schedules to talk about their love for Our Lady and how it has shaped, and is shaping, their lives as Marians.

“My mother passed away when I was just under 3 years old,” Br. Thaddaeus, MIC, says. “Mary is the only motherly presence I can remember. I can truly relate to Blessed John Paul II’s statement as a child upon the death of his mother, ‘Mary, you have to be my mother now.’”

Brother Allen, MIC, says he has always felt Mary’s presence.

“From a young age, I have felt particularly close to the Blessed Mother. I can remember having a keen sense of the truths concerning her perpetual virginity and her sinlessness, defending them ardently against naysayers and doubters.”

Community devoted to Mary

So how did their love for Mary help them in finding their vocation?

“My devotion and love for the Blessed Mother definitely played a role in discerning my vocation with the Marians,” Br. Allen explains. “When I discovered that our beloved Father Founder was a staunch defender of Marian doctrine and vowed even to give his life in defense of the truth of the Immaculate Conception, it struck a cord deep in my heart.”

Brother Thaddaeus adds, “Every Sunday, even after my mom’s death, we would gather as a family to pray the Rosary. This left a profound impression upon my heart, and the habit of saying the Rosary never left me. When I learned that the Marians pray the Rosary daily, I knew I had found a community truly devoted to Mary.”

Brother Allen and Br. Thaddaeus live at the Marian house of studies in Washington, D.C.,



FR. MARK BARON, MIC

“Mary is the only motherly presence I can remember,” says Br. Thaddaeus, MIC, who lost his mother before he was 3. “I can truly relate to Blessed John Paul II’s statement as a child upon the death of his mother, ‘Mary, you have to be my mother now.’”

where 19 men live, including nine seminarians and four novices. (Altogether, there are nearly 30 Marians in formation in the Mother of Mercy Province.)

Once young men like these have joined the Marians, how do the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception help nurture this love for Mary?

“During the novitiate, we study Our Lady in relation to the consecrated life,” says Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, who serves the Marian

Fathers as house superior, novice master, and rector of their house of studies in Washington, D.C. “During her life, Mary lived the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience in her perfect following of Jesus. These virtues, then, really form the basis for understanding the four dogmas, such as the Immaculate Conception, that define her and her relationship with God. We also spend more time studying the truth of her Immaculate Conception, its history, and theology.”

The Marians are also called to have a daily focus on Mary.

“Our constitutions call us to pray five decades of the Rosary daily and on Saturdays, when allowed, to offer a votive Mass in honor of Our Lady,” Fr. Mark says. “Every day, we say a prayer of consecration to her. We also recite other special Marian prayers that foster our love and devotion to her Immaculate Conception.”

Nurtured by Mary

Further, Fr. Mark says that the seminarians do more on their own to foster their love of Mary.

“Since I first received the call to the priesthood years ago,” says Br. Matthew, MIC, “I have had a devotion to Our Lady, the Rosary, the Seven Sorrows, and St. Louis de Montfort’s True Devotion to Mary with the consecration. I also pray the Chaplet of the Ten Evangelical Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary every day. If I did not have the love I have for Mary Immaculate, then I would not be a Marian.”

Brother Allen says he keeps Mary in the



FR. MARK BARON, MIC

The Marians are called to pray five decades of the Rosary daily in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

forefront of his thoughts.

“I find myself constantly invoking the Blessed Mother throughout the course of the day,” Br. Allen says. “One of my favorite prayers is the *Memorare*, which I pray each time I come across a prayer intention either in my own thoughts or by the request of another. I enjoy speaking with the Blessed Mother, asking for her assistance, thanking her for her maternal care, and asking for the grace to join her in pondering the mysteries of Christ in my own heart, as she had done in hers.”

Brother Thaddaeus likes to talk with Mary as well.

“To grow closer to our Lady, I simply try to talk to her from my heart as I walk to and from

Continued on page 28

Honor Our Lady of the Rosary

- Be remembered in a special Mass on the 13th of each month in Fatima.
- Unite in praying the Rosary with the Marian Fathers and the other members of this special prayer community.
- Find ways to enrich your devotion to Mary and her Son, Jesus through a monthly newsletter.



“There is always something new to discover about Mary, especially how she has helped us and wants to keep helping us – to grow closer to her Son, Jesus.”

– Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Spiritual director of the club



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Graces Received

Beatification miracle for Blessed George

To inspire you to seek the intercession of Blessed George

Matulaitis-Matulewicz, we include this account of the miracle for his beatification. One interesting point is that Blessed George suffered great pain and had difficulty walking because of tuberculosis of the bone. The beatification miracle involved a woman who had difficulty walking.

Some brief facts: Adelaide Tamosiunaite was born in 1889 and lived in Panevezys, Lithuania. She was a teacher who rode a bicycle to school each day, but she had to stop after the pain of varicose veins in her left leg became unbearable. Soon, her condition, which had affected her for 30 years, made it too painful for her to walk.

In 1974, at the age of 85, she became bed-ridden due to thrombophlebitis. Her condition was considered hopeless. She faithfully turned to the Servant of God George Matulaitis in a novena.

One morning during the novena, she woke and realized that the varicose manifestations of the thrombophlebitis had disappeared. She immediately ran to tell her family without feeling any discomfort.

Until her death in 1979, Adelaide had no other ailment of her left leg and foot.

On June 28, 1987, Archbishop George Matulaitis was beatified.

A request from Fr. Joseph, MIC

In this anniversary issue, we've been highlighting a key part of the legacy of Blessed George: his vision of having the Marians team up with laypeople in their service of Christ and the Church. One of the



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

key members of our team here on Eden Hill is the executive editor of this magazine, David Came. Like Blessed George, David is known for his extraordinary kindness, gentleness, and zeal for the kingdom of God. He is greatly loved here at the Marian Helpers Center, and he has been an indispensable part of so much of what we do.

David is also very sick. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a few years ago, and it is becoming more difficult for him to continue his writing, editing, and planning for this magazine and our other publications. Despite this, I still see him in his office late

at night and into the weekends, making sure our Marian Helpers stay well fed with solid spiritual food. Such hard work, dedication, and loving concern for our Marian Helpers is what Dave has been about for many years. And few people even know about it, which is how Dave likes to keep it.

Here, however, with Dave's permission, I wanted to make known his need and ours. I'd like to ask all our Marian Helpers to join me in praying for Dave's healing through the intercession of Blessed George. It is particularly appropriate to ask Blessed George for this grace, because it is his vision that inspires the Marians to include people like David on our team. To pray for Dave, request and use the free Blessed George prayercard mentioned below.

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For a Blessed George prayercard (B19-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Mączyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. E-mail: graces@marian.org.

DISCOVER THE LIFE AND LEGACY

of this powerful intercessor, Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, Renovator of the Marian Fathers, visit:

www.matulaitis-matulewicz.org



Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

"The emotions that come out when you see or touch something that you have never been able to touch before are so deep, so powerful. I finally feel at peace with my daughter who was never born," Antoinette said just after seeing the tile she had created as a memorial for her daughter at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass. "To give her a proper, faithful Catholic memorial is so overwhelming, but it's a great feeling."

More than 30 years ago, Antoinette was in a very dark place. She had abandoned the Church. During that time, she had an abortion.

"I had pushed my feelings about the loss of my baby deep down until I learned about Divine Mercy," Antoinette said. "When I realized how merciful God is,

that He has forgiven me for what in my mind is the worst sin you could ever commit, I knew I needed to do something for my daughter whom I never got to meet."

She says God's mercy led her to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents.

"My sister was sending me a lot of prayer-cards from the Marians Fathers. Then, I saw in your magazine that the Marians had a shrine for children who had died at an early age or before birth," she said.

On April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday, Antoinette was able to see her tile for the first time.

"It was just the perfect day to come see my daughter's tile," she said. "I feel so inspired and relieved about so many things. Spiritually, to know there is a beautiful shrine for children who have died gives me great peace.

"I felt so guilty for so long, something like 30 years, but coming to this shrine and to be

with my daughter and give her this tribute ... this is the best memorial that I could think of."

In fact, Antoinette believes that even her visit to the shrine was part of God's mercy.

"I didn't know how I would get here or how I would even find my tile. But after praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a friend called to tell me that our church had decided to put a bus trip together for Divine Mercy Sunday this



Antoinette touches her daughter's tile for the first time at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents on Divine Mercy Sunday. It meant so much to her.

year. I knew I was going on that trip to see my daughter's tile."

Like Antoinette, benefactors can have the name of a deceased child etched on a glass tile or on a candle rack. You may also include your name or someone whose pro-life witness you want to honor on a plaque for "Protectors of the Sanctity of Life."

The children memorialized at the shrine and their families are remembered daily in the Holy Mass, the Rosary for Life, and during the Hour of Great Mercy at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and in special Masses on Dec. 12, (the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe), Dec. 28 (the feast of the Holy Innocents), and on the third Saturday in July. To learn more about these and other opportunities, please call Father Joseph's Assistants for Special Gifts at 1-800-671-2020 or visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org.

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Children, holy innocents, have gone to heaven

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

Shrine of the Holy Innocents

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

To Our TWO ANGELS
Never Forgotten
Forever LOVED

SEMINARIANS

Continued from page 25

school, as well as other times during the day," Br. Thaddaeus said. "I know she loves the Rosary, but I imagine that she also loves hearing her children confide everything to her."

Marian devotions for May

Father Mark mentions as well special prayers that the community offers together for the month of May, such as the Litany of Loreto.

The seminarians are also encouraged to delve deeper into their devotion to Mary during this month.

"I like to pick flowers for the Blessed Mother and to place them near a statue of her on Mother's Day," Br. Allen said. "But by far my favorite Marian devotion for the month of May is to participate in a May Crowning, especially one involving young children. Seeing devotion to Our Blessed Mother on the faces and in the hearts of her little ones gives me great joy!"

"I simply try to remember that it is May and try to perform actions in union with Mary," Br. Thaddaeus said. "I also ask Jesus to increase my love for His Mother."

Father Mark says another way that the seminarians grow in their love for Mary is by consecrating themselves to her.

"Most of the men who join us have already consecrated themselves to her in some way,"

Fr. Mark says. "Oftentimes, I see our men renewing that consecration. Father Michael Gaitley's book *33 Days to Morning Glory* on Marian consecration has helped our guys deepen their understanding of why Mary is the quickest, easiest, and surest way to Jesus."

But it's not just the studies, prayers, and devotions that inspire the Marians, it's the community's deep love for Our Lady that radiates from the house in Washington.

"In our community, love for Our Lady is a way of life," Fr. Mark says. "Through all the communal prayers, studies, and personal devotions, Our Lady helps to stamp us with her personality in some way.

"I am surprised when a guest mentions that they sense the presence of Mary in the house. When I was a seminarian here, we had a Franciscan priest visit who had lived with St. Maxmilian Kolbe at Niepokalanów, Poland. He said that the same presence of Our Lady that he felt there, he felt in our house, too. We were shocked by his comments because we didn't feel like we were doing anything extraordinary.

"That just points to the essence of our Marian formation," Fr. Mark says. "All of us are trying to open our hearts to her in an ordinary way, allowing her to help shape each one of us as a Marian of the Immaculate Conception."

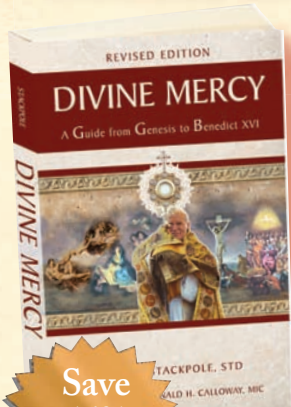
To support these seminarians and other men in formation, please visit marian.org/seminarians.

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Mark the papal transition

Celebrate Benedict's legacy ... Pray for Pope Francis



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by Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD

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Outstanding Helpers

by Mary Kathryn Volpone

'Everything I have is a gift from God'

Kathy first learned about the Divine Mercy message and devotion around the time of her mother's death. It inspired her to begin a ministry to the dying, organize three Divine Mercy conferences, and become more actively involved with the Marian Fathers as a member of their Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

After Kathy prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the bedside of her dying mother, her mother experienced the grace of a holy death. As a result, Kathy and several friends from a Eucharistic Adoration group were inspired to pray the chaplet at the bedside of others who were dying, which sparked a ministry in their diocese. "I felt God wanted this ministry, so others could experience His mercy," Kathy said.

I met Kathy in August 2009 when she visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill here in Stockbridge, Mass. I was touched when she told me, "Everything that I do is for God's glory, not mine. Everything I have is a gift from God."

While organizing their first Divine Mercy conference, Kathy and her prayer group met several of our Marian seminarians. They decided that the proceeds of their conferences should go toward the education of the seminarians. "The seminarians are always so willing to share their faith and minister to the pilgrims at the National Shrine," said Kathy. "We were all so impressed."

Kathy and her husband, John, had put their three children through college, so they knew how expensive it was to educate young people. Kathy explained, "The Marians were educating, housing, and feeding almost 30 men in formation. I wanted to help." John fully supported her decision. So far, the conferences have raised more than \$30,000 for the seminarians!

In the summer of 2011, Kathy felt God was calling her to be formed through the Marian



Kathy's group has organized three Divine Mercy conferences, which have helped raise funds for the Marian seminarians. Kathy's husband, John, serves as chef for the VIP Room at the annual conference.

Fathers' charisma and spirituality. I had felt the same call. So we approached the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior in the United States and Argentina, about creating a formation program for English-speaking members of the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception.

Several members of Kathy's group entered the Confraternity as well, so Fr. Kaz recommended that all of us study the

Marian Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis's *Journal* (**B19-SJBGC**) while we worked on the formation program. (For more information on the Confraternity and an update on publication of the formation book, visit www.marian.org/confraternity.)

Kathy saw that Blessed George in his *Journal* recognized the laity's need for formation in light of the times, writing, "Let everyone who loves God and the Church, who is concerned with the glory of God and the growth of His Church, come and take part in this holy battle on behalf of God and the Church."

"That's what it's all about," Kathy said.

Inspired by Blessed George's apostolic zeal, Kathy strives to be a contemplative in action by weaving her prayer into a life of service, as she co-facilitates two Confraternity groups, trains others to pray at the bedside of the dying, and gives talks on God's mercy. She also keeps the seminarians in mind, telling me, "If anyone offers me a donation, I'm asking them to support our seminarians."

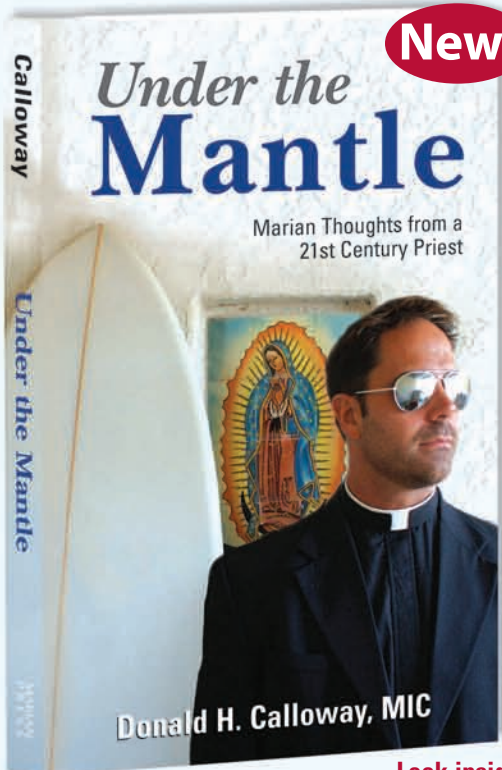
If you would also like to support our Marian seminarians, please contact me.



Mary Kathryn Volpone works in Fr. Joseph's Office for Special Gifts. You can contact her at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or call her toll free at 1-800-671-2020. E-mail: helpers@marian.org.

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Marian Thoughts

from a 21st Century Priest

by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC

Under the Mantle: Marian Thoughts from a 21st Century Priest is the long-awaited title by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, author of the best-selling book *No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy*. In *Under the Mantle*, Fr. Donald deftly shares his personal insights on topics including Divine Mercy, the Eucharist, the Church, confession, prayer, the cross, masculinity, and femininity. What it means to be under Mary's mantle is the central thread weaving a tapestry that includes quotes about Our Lady from Saints, Blesseds, and Popes. *Under the Mantle* is quickly becoming a "tour de force" Marian book for the Year of Faith!

B19-UTM • \$19.95

See review on page 6.

Look inside.

One of the biggest challenges facing Catholics today is the risk of becoming lukewarm, disillusioned, or unenthused about their Catholic faith. Indeed, not being madly in love with Jesus, Mary, and the Church is an increasing threat in the lives of many. For this reason, this book could not have come at a better time. Father Calloway weaves both his personal conversion story and love for Our Lady, along with fascinating insights into the Catholic faith, helping the reader fall back in love with the saving mysteries of Catholicism. This book is a must read for all!

— Derry Connolly, Ph.D. President of John Paul the Great Catholic University

The 'One Thing' Is Three

How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything

by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

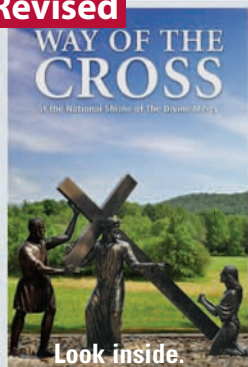
With humor and ease, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, deftly unlocks the "one thing," the key to the Church's wisdom, and the greatest mystery of the Catholic faith: the Most Holy Trinity. Far from being an academic read, *The 'One Thing' Is Three* makes deep theology accessible to everyday Catholics. Further, it makes even what's familiar or forgotten new, exciting, and relevant. An ideal resource for the Year of Faith.

B19-ONE • \$14.95

Look inside.



Revised



Look inside.

Way of the Cross

If you are looking to deepen your love for our crucified Savior, consider the newly revised, expanded *Way of the Cross* that celebrates the epic Eden Hill Stations of the Cross through prayers, meditations, and photos.

Gaze upon stunning photos of these life-size sculptures as you follow either St. Faustina's Way of the Cross or a shorter traditional version. Both are included in this book. These photos can also inspire your reflection on the meditations we offer for each of the Stations.

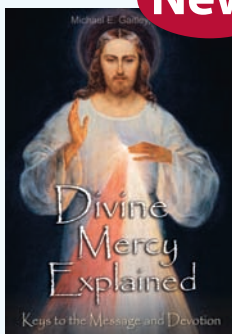
We share as well the stories of the benefactors, the sculptor, and the creative process involved in making the Stations. B19-CWY3 • \$6.95

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

New Divine Mercy resources

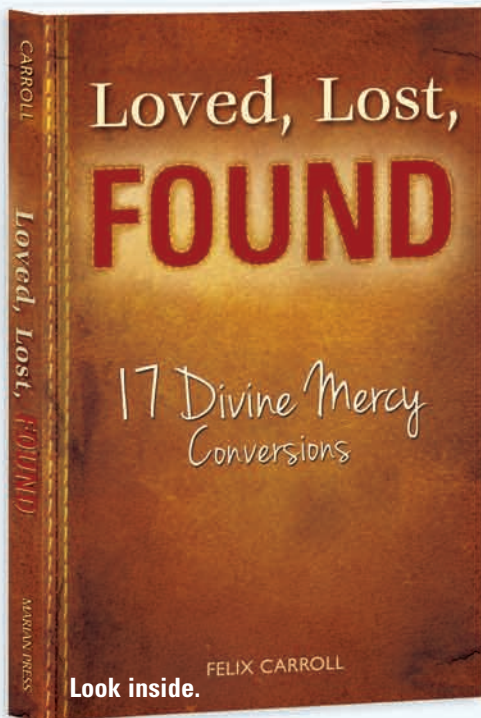
Divine Mercy Explained

This booklet from Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, gives you a brief and easy-to-understand introduction to the Divine Mercy message and devotion. You'll read about the history and context of Divine Mercy, the essential elements of the devotion, and how you can live the message. Includes the full prayers of the Divine Mercy Novena and St. Faustina's Litany to Divine Mercy, as well as two bonus appendices: valuable Divine Mercy prayers and Divine Mercy wisdom from Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. 72 pages. B19-DMX • \$3.99



New!

Look inside.



Look inside.

B19-LLF16 • \$14.95

Divine Mercy Image Explained

From experts to beginners, this new booklet by author Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, is an engaging read that reveals hidden gems and highlights inspiring truths about the Divine Mercy image. It covers the great grace and key elements of the image with remarkable depth and clarity. Also, includes instructions on how to enthrone the image in your home, an enthronement prayer, and two bonus appendices. 72 pages. B19-DMIX \$3.99



New!

Look inside.

Loved, Lost, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions

by Felix Carroll

Author Ronda Chervin, Ph.D., has called this “one of the best books I have ever read.” Authored by the Marian’s award-winning writer Felix Carroll, *Loved, Lost, Found* profiles 17 everyday people who discover God’s extraordinary mercy. They include a former abortionist, a blind atheist, an unfaithful husband, a former cult member, a rape victim, two prisoners, a former “workaholic,” and a survivor of the “Miracle on the Hudson” plane crash, among others. Jesus told St. Faustina “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy” (*Diary*, 723). This book illustrates how Jesus shows mercy to such prodigals.

See excerpt on page 18.

Divine Mercy Image

The Marian Fathers and their partner Divine Mercy Team are now offering the Divine Mercy image in bulk for you to share with your friends, family, and parish at very low prices. You can order the image in various sizes from wallet-size to 8 x 10 and 27 x 40 or a combination of each. For more information or to order, go online to visit DivineMercyArt.com.

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**See related
story, page 16.**

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Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper

Working together in youth ministry

Ever since high school and college, I have had a desire to share the Gospel with young hearts, with children and youth. Now, as pastor of one of the Marians' Midwest parishes, the Lord gives me the opportunity every day to share the Gospel with young hearts, especially with the high school youth of my parish. I recently shared with one of our devoted volunteers, Micaela Resendez, about some of the ways we approach youth ministry at St. Mary's in Plano, Ill., especially during this Year of Faith. Here's a snapshot of our conversation:

Fr. Andy: First, let's talk about some of the basic dynamics of St. Mary's youth ministry.

Micaela: I think a key principle that has helped us quadruple the number of youth at our regular meetings is the importance of listening to them. What are they hungry for? What would they like to do? By listening to them, we have built a program around what they are looking for. The kids have responded in some beautiful ways.

Fr. Andy: One of those beautiful ways is how the youth voiced a desire to learn the *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YOUCAT)*. I was a little hesitant because no one had created a study guide for the *YOU-CAT*. But since they insisted, I said, "Well, I'll just have to create our own." The kids have responded well.

Micaela: One thing that has grabbed their attention in this *YOUCAT* study is a balance of learning and goofiness. The youth respond well to mixing the two. Remember the soup?

Fr. Andy: I blew up soup to prove the point Pope Benedict XVI made beautifully in his foreword to the *YOUCAT*. Pope Benedict said, "You need to know what you believe. You need to know your faith with that same precision with which an IT specialist knows the inner workings of a computer. ... You need to be more deeply rooted in the faith than the generation of your parents." I said to myself: "This is an awesome point the youth need to hear." Then, this crazy thought came to me in prayer: "Blow up soup with concentrated baking soda and vinegar! Just like a chef needs to know



COURTESY OF FR. ANDY DAVY, MIC

Father Andy and Micaela share a heart for youth.

exactly what he is putting in his soup (or it might blow up), a Catholic needs to know his faith intimately."

Micaela: They love learning about their Catholic faith and have fun doing it! Also, I think they enjoy the active role that you, as their pastor, take in youth ministry.

Fr. Andy: I think this was lived out beautifully by Blessed John Paul the Great, who, as a young priest, would take the young adults in his parish on kayaking trips. We priests are called "father" for a reason, and we need to spend time with our youth. Playing Laser Tag does wonders for your credibility when you sit down and teach the awesome truths of our Catholic faith through *YOUCAT* or a Bible study. I've learned to never underestimate how having fun with the youth opens them up to growing in their faith.

Micaela: It has been beautiful to see the young people grow in their faith. They are coming regularly to Mass and confession, are serving in various aspects of parish ministry, and are getting excited for this year's Franciscan University of Steubenville's Youth Conference.

Fr. Andy: Whether it's fun activities, the *YOUCAT* study, a Bible study, or the youth conference, our essential goal for all that we do is to help our youth stand strong in their faith — to experience the joy and freedom found in being Catholic!

Fr. Andy Davy, MIC, is pastor of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Ill. He joined the Marians after college and was ordained a priest in the spring of 2009.

Micaela Resendez, a member of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Ill, has worked with youth and Hispanic ministry in the parish for about four years.

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'How we heard the call'



Br. John, MIC, with Marian benefactors Jim and Sue.

Br. John, MIC,
talks about
his trip to
Calcutta.



Marian Helpers Jim and Sue:

We have been proud contributors to the Marian seminarians for the past eight years. We believe supporting the vocations of seminarians is an indispensable and essential call for all of the laity. As Jesus said to St. Faustina: "Priests and Religious gave Me the strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them, as through channels, My mercy flows out upon mankind."

Marian seminarian Br. John:

After I committed to the priesthood, I checked out the most popular communities, but I didn't find what I was looking for so I gave up. A few months later, I felt inspired to pray and was led to the Marians. When I discovered the Marian spirituality, I knew I had found my spiritual home – under Mary's mantle and in Divine Mercy.

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



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

The next retreats will be:
Sept. 6-8, Nov. 22-24,
and Dec. 6-8

Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Vocation Director
Marians of the Immaculate Conception
515 Bellevue Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952

E-mail: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
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See the Marian Fathers' vocation video at marian.org/vocationvideo.

Want to help the seminarians? Click here or call 1-800-671-2020.

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