

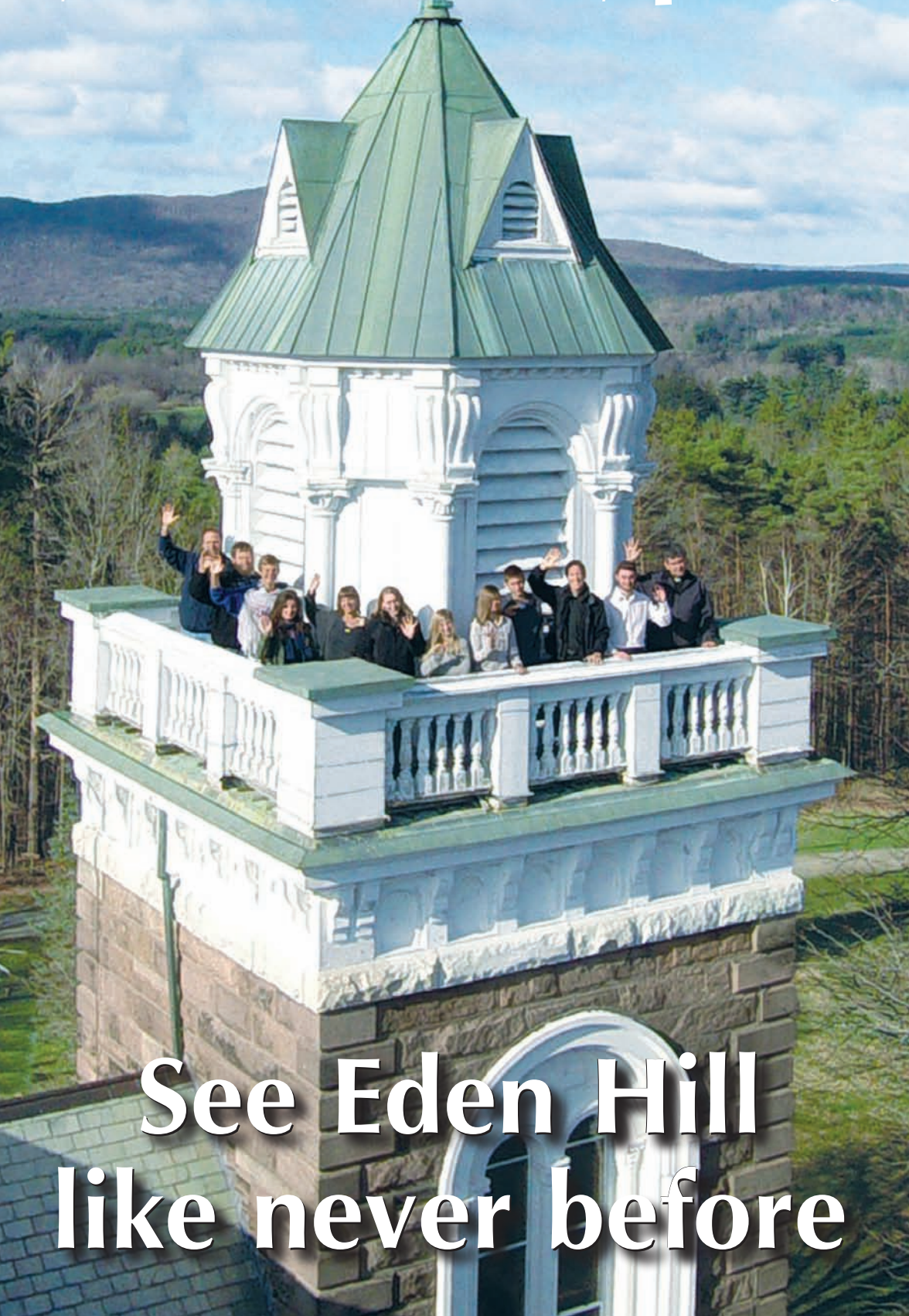
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MARIAN HELPER

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On the cover: Photographer Mark Fanders, using an aerial camera, captures Marians and Marian Helpers in the bell tower of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.

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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- 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 1.5 million members share in the spiritual benefits of the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marians.

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

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Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

► See HAPP blog to learn more about program.

What's HAPPening?

I want to let you in on a little secret: For the last three years since I started as director of the Association of Marian Helpers, I've been keeping an eye on one single principle: "Focus on the mission of evangelization, and the rest will follow."

These words from the founder of the Association of Marian Helpers, Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, have been our marching orders here at the Marian Helpers Center on Eden Hill since I arrived. Indeed, our small army of staff and volunteers have heard me repeat these words at various meetings and events.

Guided by this principle, we've pursued a number of new initiatives these last three years such as Divine Mercy Art and works of mercy for the poor, as well as evangelization partnerships with organizations such as St. Luke Productions, Lighthouse Catholic Media, and Divine Mercy Team. Through all this activity, the arm of the Association of Marian Helpers is reaching out and touching literally *millions* of people with the consoling message of Divine Mercy, devotion to Mary, and the teachings of our Catholic faith.

For me, however, the most exciting part of all this activity has been an initiative that aims to convert all of North America — really! Put differently, it aims to set *all hearts afire* for Jesus through Mary. In keeping with this aim, it's called Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate

Conception (HAPP®), and it really is setting hearts on fire.

Let me give you one example of what I mean from a recent e-mail:

On behalf of members of four parishes near Montrose, Calif. — thank you!

Words fail to express the deep gratitude we feel for the many graces received from following

Jesus and Mary through the Hearts Afire group program. As facilitator of this group, it never occurred to me that it would be such a rewarding experience, both mentally and spiritually. All I had in mind when I started was to fulfill a need that I observed in our parish. The participants have responded with a conversion of hearts that lovingly embrace the true teachings of Jesus, and I have grown immensely in my faith.

We look forward to *The 'One Thing' Is Three* Group Study after we complete Stage One of the HAPP series.

E-mails, letters, and phone calls like this come in just about every day, reminding us that many hearts are catching fire for Christ and the Church. In fact, in just two years since HAPP's release, more than 300,000 people in parishes across the United States and Canada have gone through the programs or at least made one of our retreats. And yet HAPP hasn't even been fully launched.

In this issue, I invite you to learn more about Stage Two of the Hearts Afire Program, *The 'One Thing' Is Three* Group Study, which was released on Divine Mercy Sunday. This group program also includes a works-of-mercy bonus session based on *You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy In Action*, a new book that you can learn about in Fr. Joseph's Bookshelf.

If you haven't started HAPP at your parish, I encourage you to do so! Work together with us to make a difference not only in your parish but in your whole diocese. As one bishop recently asked me, "Do you have any idea of the impact of these programs?" I said, "Not really." He replied with a smile, "They're transforming our whole diocese!" (See page 22 for more on HAPP.)

So, my special request to all our Marian Helpers is that you'll help us transform whole dioceses and set North America on fire for Jesus through Mary. All we have to do is "focus on the mission of evangelization, and the rest will follow." May the Lord bless our efforts, and may He bless you.

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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.

Father Joseph's Mailbox

We asked Marian Helpers to share why they come again and again on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.

'I'm able to pray and meditate'

In 2000, my family decided to visit the Divine Mercy Shrine. It was a four-hour drive from Long Island and my first visit to Eden Hill. During the Mass, I could smell really fresh roses. Father Donald Calloway, MIC, was celebrating the Mass. After the Mass, I asked everyone around me if they had smelled the roses, and none of them had. I was so shocked. I talked to Fr. Donald, and he explained to me that it was St. Faustina's way of letting me know she was there.



I promised to come to the Shrine regularly and since my first visit, I haven't missed a single year. Whether it's summer, spring, or fall, I always find time to go, even for just one day. We often drive from New York for the afternoon [Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet].

I tell all my friends and employees about Eden Hill and how beautiful it is. I enjoy bringing friends and staff members. You have a sense of peace when you come. I am able to pray and meditate. It is such a blessing for me to be able to go there, even for half a day.

— GM, La Canada, Calif.

'Eden Hill is a place of tranquility'

We both love coming to Eden Hill and the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. It has become an important part of our lives over the past five years. We enjoy making a retreat out of the Divine Mercy Sunday weekend.

We have family members who have made a pilgrimage to Stockbridge — some long ago and others more recently. In fact, after our first pilgrimage and then sharing our experience with family, we found out that Susan's grandparents came to the Shrine soon after it was built.

We have developed a close relationship with some of the people who work at the Shrine and are blessed to encounter the

warm hearts of all those who work at the Shrine. Eden Hill is a place of peace and tranquility that you can bring home with you and share with others.

— K & SM, Maspeth, N.Y.

'To recollect, refocus, and recharge'

I have been visiting the Marians and Eden Hill since I was a junior in college. Now, my trips to Eden Hill as a priest provide me with time to realize that Jesus, the High Priest, has given priests unfathomable mercy so that mercy can be dispensed through us to the whole world. The Shrine provides me with moments to recollect, refocus, and recharge so that I can re-engage and cooperate with the mission of mercy that every priest is part of.

— Fr. DR, Smithtown, N.Y.

'I call this place my heart's home'

I've been coming to Eden Hill for the past 15 years, but for the past three months I've been coming here every week. It's a three-hour drive, I've hit snowstorms every week, and my car is falling apart, but it's the most pleasurable drive.



I call this place my heart's home. I feel at peace here. I really feel renewed. I work as a nurse, and lately when I go back, I feel I am better able to spiritually nourish my patients. And it is just nice to be in a community where prayer is a normal thing, and you can have conversations about your faith.

There have been so many things I have been able to work on while visiting that it's just a beautiful experience. And getting to talk to Marian priests and brothers or even having random conversations with people at the Stations of the Cross, it's just really nice.

— KP, Brooklyn, N.Y.

As these Helpers testify, the beauty and spirituality of Eden Hill are drawing many pilgrims. I would encourage anyone who is interested to make a pilgrimage here. Also, see page 10 for my story on making a virtual pilgrimage to the Hill — every day.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

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Share why you come again and again on pilgrimage to Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass., on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MarianHelpers](https://www.facebook.com/MarianHelpers) or e-mail us at mailbox@marian.org.



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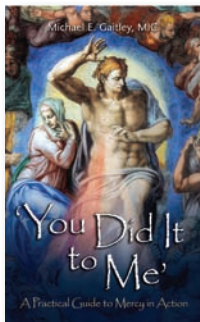
'YOU DID IT TO ME'

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MERCY IN ACTION

BY FR. MICHAEL E. GAITLEY, MIC

MARIAN PRESS, 200 PP., \$14.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B22-2ME**



There are plenty of books on the works of mercy. So why write another one? Good question. Here are my four main reasons for writing this.

First, the works of mercy are a matter of life and death — as in *eternal* life and death. If we do not practice them, we will not be saved (see Mt 25:31-46 and Jas 2:14-17). So, because this is such an important topic, there's certainly room for another book.

Second, no other book on the works of mercy taps deeply into the wisdom of the great mercy saint of our time, Maria Faustina Kowalska. Her witness to mercy sheds light on the works of mercy, and this writing makes ample use of her teaching.

Third, other books on the works of mercy offer practical suggestions on how to put mercy into action. However, their suggestions often take second place to anecdotes and theological explanations. How can we live the works of mercy daily, concretely, and consistently? This book aims to thoroughly answer these sorts of practical questions.

Fourth, most approaches to the works of mercy follow the traditional 14-point list. Now, I don't know about you, but for me, a list of 14 things is a bit daunting. Therefore, while this book certainly incorporates all 14 of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, it's organized around the much simpler structure of the five Scriptural categories in Matthew 25:31-46.

So these are my four main reasons for writing this book. I hope you enjoy reading *'You Did It to Me'* as much as I enjoyed writing it. Yes, I found joy in penning these pages. And this seems fitting because, in the end, joy is really what the works of mercy are all about: the joy of giving, the joy of receiving, the joy of heaven that comes as a reward.

MEET YOUR MOTHER, REVISED EDITION

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO MARY

BY MARK MIRAVALLE; FOREWORD BY FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY, MIC

MARIAN PRESS/LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA, 137 PP., \$12.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B22-MYM**



This book is about coming to better understand the amazing gift from God, the precious gift of our spiritual mother, Mary. While it's just a brief introduction, it's packed with insight and life-changing meaning — which doesn't surprise me. I say this because the author, Dr. Mark Miravalle, was one of my favorite professors at Franciscan University of Steubenville, my alma mater. His contagious love for Mary and clear teaching about her significantly changed my life and the lives of many other students.

All of this makes me so grateful that Dr. Miravalle wrote this book — there's such a need for it. During my travels, I meet so many people who are just awakening to the idea of Mary as their mother. Whether through the Rosary, Marian consecration, or in some other way, they seem to be drawing closer to her now than ever before. And what a hunger they have! They feel that there's so much they don't know about her, but they want to learn — and learn quickly.

Well, this book is the best brief introduction on Mary I've ever read. It's a great way to "meet your mother" by discovering the Church's official teachings on Mary in the first section and how she continues to be relevant today in the last section. And now with this new, revised edition, the text has been edited for a smoother reading experience, which makes it even easier to grasp Dr. Miravalle's Marian wisdom. There's also a new conclusion, as well as appendixes on praying the Rosary and Marian consecration.

So whether you've already met Mary or hardly know anything about her, I invite you to dig into this treasure of a book. It will help you to receive the gift that Jesus graciously gave us from the cross. It will help you to meet and lovingly behold your mother.

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Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

Why the Pope's focus on the family?

Q. Why has Pope Francis called for a synod on the family this October?

A. The family has been on the mind of the Holy Father these days. In Rome, he discussed the family with the cardinals at a consistory in February, and he will do so again in October with many prelates at the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops. Then, the 8th World Meeting for Families will take place in Philadelphia in September 2015 (there are hopes that Pope Francis will attend), followed by an ordinary synod on the family in October 2015.

The theme of the synod in October 2014 is "Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization," bringing together two parts of the Church's life (evangelization and family) that were prominent in the ministry and teaching of St. Pope John Paul II. The synod is expected to address pastoral challenges families face today, including divorce/remarriage barring loved ones from receiving the Eucharist and the widespread practice of cohabitation.

In his homily for the canonization of John Paul II and John XXIII, Pope Francis said, "In his own service to the People of God, St. John Paul II was the Pope of the family. He himself once said that he wanted to be remembered as the Pope of the family. I am particularly happy to point this out as we are in the process of journeying with families towards the Synod on the family. It is surely a journey which, from his place in heaven, he guides and sustains."

Why is the family so important? Our faith teaches us that the family is part of God's original plan for His creation and is the foundation of society. The family is the domestic church, as St. John Paul II taught in his apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*, and reflects the exchange of love between the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Thus, the modern world's desire to reinvent the family goes against the plan of our Creator and would have grave consequences for society. Let's ask the Pope of the Family, St. John Paul II, to intercede for the Holy Father and other Church leaders as they prepare for these meetings.

► **For more on Pope's focus on family.**

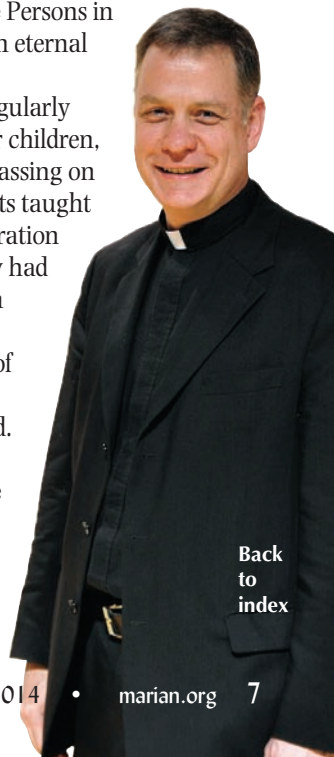
Q. My teenage daughter uses social media a lot, and I'm concerned that it has become all-consuming for her. What should I do?

A. Technology has rapidly changed the way that people interact and communicate. Some experts call today's young people *digital natives* — their whole lives have been lived in the digital age with computers, video games, social media like Facebook, and now smartphones.

While many young people today are adept at communicating with one another through social networks in the "virtual world," the result can sometimes be a difficulty in communicating face-to-face with someone in the real world. For many young people today, a smartphone is like a security blanket. They carry it with them constantly for instant access to family and friends. Separation from this network, even for a short time, can be difficult and painful.

What can a parent do? It's important that parents set limits, stay in communication with their children, and remain a point of reference for them in a world in which young people can learn things easily on the Internet and be tempted to think of their parents as irrelevant. Technology changes, but people at heart have the same basic human needs: a need to love and to be loved, to communicate with others, and to feel accepted. In this way, we reflect God who is Three Persons in One divine essence — an eternal Family of Love.

So parents need to regularly communicate with their children, sharing their love and passing on their wisdom. My parents taught me the wisdom of moderation in all things, which they had learned from Franciscan priests. Parents can also learn from the practice of the "Grand Silence" in monasteries at day's end. For example, they can insist that everything be turned off by a certain hour at night.



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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.

MARIAN HELPER • SUMMER 2014

marian.org

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In the News: Marians around the World

Pope takes personal interest in WACOM III in Bogota

This year, the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM) will be held on Pope Francis's home continent of South America. And according to WACOM General Secretary Fr. Patrice Chocholski, the Holy Father has taken a personal interest in the Congress. Following the consistory to create new cardinals in February, 17 cardinals presented the Holy Father with a letter about the Congress, and "he got directly involved in WACOM III," said Fr. Patrice.

The Marians assisted WACOM President Cardinal Christoph Schönborn in inviting the North American bishops to attend WACOM in Bogota, Colombia, from Aug. 15-19. Since various groups are currently organizing pilgrimages for the Congress, the Marians will not organize one from the U.S. Marian Helpers who wish to attend WACOM need to register and make their own travel plans. To register for WACOM, please go to wacomcolombia.org.

Those who will attend and wish to be part of the North American delegation should contact the Marians at wacom2014@marian.org.

The Congress is expected to draw thousands of people, including many cardinals, and will include testimonies, lectures, street celebrations, Holy Masses, and missions.

The structure of the Congress will be similar to the previous ones: five days with talks and testimonies in the morning, workshops and missions in parishes in the afternoon, and evening festivals.

The Congress will use as its inspiration what has become the master plan for the New Evangelization in Latin America, the "Aparecida Document." Written under the guidance of the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (now Pope Francis), the document was released by the Fifth General Assembly of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brazil in 2007.

► **For more on WACOM III.**



The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, a continental vice-coordinator for WACOM, speaks at the first WACOM in 2008 as Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Austria, president of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, looks on. Father Kaz has participated in planning WACOM III, which will be held in Bogota, Colombia, Aug. 15-19.

Centennial celebrations to include vows

To close out the centennial year celebrations of the Marians' establishment in the United States, the community will prepare for the future with perpetual vows and diaconal ordination ceremonies.

Seven, possibly eight, Marian brothers are preparing to profess their perpetual vows on Friday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m. in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Plans call for two (Br. Thaddaeus and Br. Jonathan) to be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m. in the Crypt Church of the Basilica, along with a number of men from other religious orders. The celebrant for the rite of ordination will be Bishop Martin Holley, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and an associate member of the Marian Fathers. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 2 p.m. in the Upper Church of the Basilica, thanking God for His blessings on the Marians during these past 100 years of fruitful apostolic labors in the United States. All Marian Helpers are welcome to attend. For more information, please visit marian.org/centennial.

Further, Deacon Chris Alar, MIC, is to be ordained a priest on Saturday, May 31. Please keep him and all the Marians in your prayers.

► **For more on Marian seminarians.**

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Celebrate with us!



Join us for a pilgrimage on Sept. 5-7 to Washington, D.C., for profession of final vows, diaconal ordinations, and the Marian Fathers' Centennial Celebration.

Marian.org/pilgrimages • (413) 298-1303

In the News: Marians' Divine Mercy Apostolates

Dr. Thatcher to address Mercy Congress in Africa

On Oct. 3-5, the weekend of St. Faustina's feast, Bryan Thatcher, MD, director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), will speak in Keetmanshoop, Namibia, at a Mercy Congress organized by Bishop Philipp Pöllitzer, OMI, the local ordinary.

"There are several EADM cenacle groups there," said Dr. Thatcher, "and I hope to help deepen their understanding of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, so they may put it into practice in their evangelizing work across their country."

The Congress is one of dozens held worldwide in affiliation with the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM). General Secretary of WACOM Fr. Patrice Chocholski will also be speaking at the Congress.

'Life support' distributed at healthcare conference

It's only natural that Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy would distribute the Marians' Divine Mercy medicine kit inspired by Pope Francis. Such was the case at the healthcare apostolate's 10th Annual Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference in Worcester, Mass., at the College of the Holy Cross on May 7-8.

The Marians call this spiritual medicine "Mercycardin." Designed to look like a prescription, Mercycardin contains a rosary in its own pill bottle and a prayercard featuring a Divine Mercy image and instructions on praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Since introducing Mercycardin earlier this year, the Marians have distributed more than 25,000, including several hundred at the healthcare conference. (click here to order.)

"It's very convenient to have that

Mercycardin packet to give to a patient or family member and suggest that they pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet," says Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. "It's very important for the healthcare professional to understand that the first obligation is to try to find a priest to give the Anointing of the Sick, but the second line of defense is the chaplet, which is basically spiritual life support for the dying."



"It's very convenient to have that Mercycardin packet to give to a patient or family member and suggest that they pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet," says Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

After praying the *Angelus* in St. Peter's Square on Nov. 17, 2013, Pope Francis recommended to pilgrims a "spiritual medicine" called *Misericordina*, which the Marian Fathers have brought to the U.S. as Mercycardin. He referred to *Misericordina* as "spiritual help for our souls and for spreading love, forgiveness, and brotherhood everywhere."

Dr. Stackpole helps form Marians as evangelists

Three times a year (in the fall, winter, and spring), Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, spends a weekend with the Marian novices in residence at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C., and guides

them in an intensive study of every major aspect of the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

They read some of the classic books on Divine Mercy, including Fr. George Kosicki, CSB's *Now Is the Time for Mercy*, and study some of the difficult passages in St. Faustina's *Diary*, as well as Fr. Ignacy Rozycki's famous summary of the essentials of Divine Mercy theology. To equip them to share it, the novices also learn how to give talks on Divine Mercy.

"It's exciting to watch the Divine Mercy evangelists of tomorrow spread their wings for the first time and begin to fly!" Dr. Stackpole said.

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The Divine Mercy Apostolates represent four unique lay apostolates of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. They bring the message of Divine Mercy to churches and communities throughout the world.



BRINGING IT



See Eden Hill like you've



MARK FANDERS

by Fr. Joseph, MIC

That's not a fish!" I thought as I peered into one of the tide pools near my brother's house in Southern California. I reached into the water and retrieved a sandy, soggy belt wrapped around a tiny camera. Then, with happily shrieking nieces and a nephew in tow, I brought this curious treasure over to my brother.

"Cool!" he said. "That's a headcam for surfers!"

Because I no longer have time for surfing, I gave the camera to my brother, who is an avid surfer and photographer. He brought

HOME TO YOU

never seen it before.



it home, connected it to his computer, and tried to identify the owner based on the film-footage and in other ways. He couldn't. So now my brother has a new, high-tech companion to take along on his surfing trips.

A few months after that vacation day with my family, I got a generous check in the mail from my brother and sister-in-law. They were so grateful for the gift of the camera that they decided to pay for an "aerial cam" for our use on Eden Hill. Their thoughts were that it could open up the beauty of Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.,



► See the different seasons on Eden Hill.

to more people. I loved the idea, and let me explain why.

I have about a five-minute commute to Eden Hill every morning that makes me feel a bit guilty. I mean, it's five minutes of driving past absolutely gorgeous natural scenery. This Eden Hill property, which the Marians purchased for around \$20,000 in the 1940s, currently includes more than 400 acres that truly proclaim the glory of God.

Now, I think we've all experienced how the beauty of creation can lift our hearts and draw us closer to God. But unfortunately, not everyone is able to live so near to natural beauty as I do — and I've often wished that more people could share in the splendors I see daily. I say this knowing that tens of thousands of pilgrims travel here each year and do get to see it, but I also know many more people can't come and would enjoy it.

Well, thanks to my brother and sister-in-law's generosity, the amazing beauty of



PHOTOS BY MARK FANDERS

Eden Hill is now accessible to everyone. Let me tell you what I mean.

With my family's donation, the Marian Helpers Center was able to purchase a brand new, radio-controlled aerial camera, which has the ability to take high-quality digital photos and videos. More specifically, it soars hundreds of feet above Eden Hill and captures the stunning panoramas of the rolling Berkshire Hills, the breathtaking beauty of the Kampososa Bog, the handsome façade of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy with its distinctive bell tower, and much more.

In this issue, we've added extra pages to give you a sneak peek of what you can expect to find on our new, redesigned website, marian.org, where we'll be posting more photos and videos from our new aerial camera. Further, I invite you to check out the digital edition of this magazine at marian.org/imh, where you can also enjoy



the beauty on Eden Hill through an expanded version of this article and our other stories.

Of course, some may read all this and think, “Well, that’s nice, but there’s only so much of Eden Hill to see. Surely, this is a limited spectacle.” Not so! One of the most amazing things about Eden Hill is the way it dramatically changes with each season. Winter, spring, summer, and the glorious fall here on the Hill each offers its own rich and distinctive beauty. Also, there are the many annual Shrine events (such as Divine Mercy Sunday and Encuentro Latino) that we’ll be capturing from a safe distance with our aerial camera. On marian.org, we’ll post these photos and videos of the changing face of Eden Hill for your enjoyment and edification.

So, whether it’s through the digital edition of our magazine or our redesigned website, it’s all about bringing Eden Hill and everything we offer home to you, our



PHOTOS BY MARK FANDERS

Marian Helpers. As Marian Helpers, Eden Hill is your spiritual home, too, and now you get to enjoy it every day!

Before closing, I'd like to offer you an opportunity to support us like my brother did. No, we're not looking to buy another aerial camera. Rather, we're planning to build a state-of-the-art media studio here on Eden Hill, so we can use the latest technology not only to stay in even closer touch with you (our Helpers) but, most importantly, to give us more options in spreading the Gospel in an increasingly secularized society.

This project will enhance our capability to produce audio-books, faith-based videos, and much more. Please contribute at marian.org/mh/b22. Then, keep your eyes open for even more free videos and resources at marian.org or visit our YouTube page.

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MARIE ROMAGNANO



Exclusive three-part interview with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, personal secretary and friend of Saint John Paul II.

SAINTHOOD FOR MERCY POPES

The Marians have reason to celebrate on Mercy's big day.

By Felix Carroll

One essentially saved the Divine Mercy message and devotion. The other declared Divine Mercy the central mission of his pontificate. Both men are now officially saints of the Church.

Calling them “two men of courage” who “teach us to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of Divine Mercy,” Pope Francis canonized Popes John Paul II and John XXIII before a worldwide audience on April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday.

“Saint John XXIII and St. John Paul II ... bore witness before the Church and the world to God’s goodness and mercy,” said Pope Francis in his homily, delivered before a crowd of 800,000 that stretched from St. Peter’s Square into the nearby main roads and side streets of Rome. Millions more watched live broadcasts around the world. (See sidebar for excerpts from Pope Francis’s homily on pages 18-19.)

The crowd — hoisting flags of dozens of nations, images of Divine Mercy, and portraits of Francis, John Paul II, and John



Pope Francis incenses the Paschal Candle on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, during the canonization liturgy. On this Octave Day of Easter, the candle symbolizes Christ as the light illuminating the darkness.

► **Learn more about new saints.**

XXIII — erupted with applause after Pope Francis recited in Latin the formula for the Rite of Canonization.

Embrace of message and devotion

Among those gathered in St. Peter’s Square were members of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, for whom the canonization served as further validation that the universal Church has embraced the Divine Mercy message and devotion, as revealed to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938).

Father Jim

McCormack, MIC, who led a canonization pilgrimage for Marian Helpers, said a powerful moment came before the Mass and Rite of Canonization when the Vatican included recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the reading of an excerpt from the homily that John Paul II had given in 2000 at St. Faustina’s canonization.

“The thought that struck me was how, in this case here on Divine Mercy Sunday, there’s no longer any sense of tension, if you will,



between ‘mercy’ in general and the Divine Mercy message and forms of devotion as given to St. Faustina,” said Fr. Jim, the Marians’ novice master and prefect of formation. “Pope Francis — and the Church in general — is very clear that Divine Mercy Sunday doesn’t mean just ‘generic mercy’; it means the message of Divine Mercy, given through the ‘Secretary of Divine Mercy,’ St. Faustina.”

When Sr. Faustina, who belonged to the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland, died of tuberculosis in 1938, she left behind a diary in which she recorded her mystical experiences with the merciful Lord. The Marians have worked to spread St. Faustina’s revelations throughout the world since 1941.

A fulfillment of Christ’s call

A giant in 20th century history, John Paul II said in 1997 at Sr. Faustina’s tomb in Krakow-Lagiewniki, Poland, that the message of Divine Mercy “forms the image” of his pontificate. He repeatedly described Divine Mercy as the answer to the world’s problems. In fact, he called it the message of the third millennium when he canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000.

Moreover, when John Paul canonized her, he fulfilled Christ’s request made through her by announcing that Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, was to be a feast day for the entire Church. By Divine Providence, Pope John Paul II died on the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, April 2, 2005.

Highlighting John Paul II’s special connection to the feast, Pope Francis opened his canonization homily, saying, “Saint John Paul II wished to dedicate [this Sunday] to Divine Mercy.”

For his part, Pope John XXIII, known as “Good Pope John,” played no small role in the Church’s embrace of St. Faustina’s revelations. “John XXIII literally *saved* the Divine Mercy

message and devotion,” says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “According to one of Pope John XXIII’s secretaries, the day after Pope John’s enthronement in 1958, he went to his office in the Vatican, where a pile of documents was prepared on the desk for his review and signature. According to the secre-



Many of the faithful in the crowd at the canonization prominently displayed Divine Mercy images in honor of John Paul II’s dedication to promoting the message of Divine Mercy.

tary, knowing how the Vatican bureaucracy worked, that aides placed more controversial papers at the bottom with the hope that they’ll just be rubber-stamped, the Pope sat down at the desk, made the Sign of the Cross, and flipped the pile upside down. The very first document he dealt with was a decree to forbid the spread of the revelations of Sr. Faustina and the forms of devotion to Divine Mercy associated with them, including the removal of the Divine Mercy images already enshrined in churches.”

The reason some in the Vatican sought a permanent ban of Faustina’s revelations was the result of faulty translations of her writings.

“John XXIII read their decree carefully, shook his head, and said, ‘No, no, no! This must be looked into further. The bishops of Poland need to be consulted,’” said Fr. Michael. “But they couldn’t be consulted because of the situation with the Communists’ control over Poland. So, a decree forever forbidding the message was substituted by a notification of prohibition,

which was eventually lifted through the efforts of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.”

“What the ban did,” says the Very Rev. Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians’ provincial superior for the United States and Argentina, “was to force a review. It created the opportunity for a proper investigation of her writings drawing from the original documents.”



Sister Simon-Pierre Normand, the recipient of the miracle that led to John Paul II’s beatification, reads the intention in French for the Prayers of the Faithful.

Upon the lifting of the ban by Pope Paul VI, Divine Mercy became what many consider the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church.

More than once, Pope John Paul II acknowledged and encouraged the Marians’ special role as promoters of Divine Mercy, charging them at their General Chapter on June 22,

1993, “Be Apostles of the Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.”

Why did Pope John Paul II insist the world pay heed to the Divine Mercy message and devotion — so much so that he described Divine Mercy as his personal task before God?

“Clearly, he did so because he saw it as more than just a collection of ‘private revelations,’” says Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who served as the vice-postulator for St. Faustina’s canonization cause. “Rather, he saw them as prophetic revelations. In other words, revelations given to us by God to



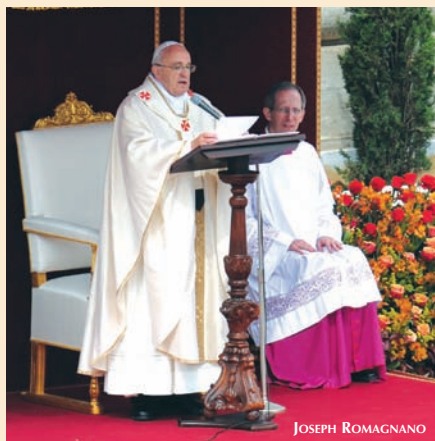
proclaim the heart of the Gospel in a way especially suited to meet the needs of our era.

“Through the message of Divine Mercy,” says Fr. Seraphim, “our Lord is preparing us for His final coming.”

Connecting two papacies

The canonization — the first time in Church history that two popes were simul-

‘They saw Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles’



Here are excerpts from the official Vatican translation of Pope Francis’s homily delivered in St. Peter’s Square at the Mass and Rite of Canonization of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII:

At the heart of this Sunday, which concludes the Octave of Easter and which St. John Paul II wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, are the glorious wounds of the risen Jesus. ...

The wounds of Jesus are a scandal, a stumbling block for faith, yet they are also the test of faith. That is why on the Body of the Risen Christ the wounds never pass away: They remain, for those wounds are the enduring sign of God’s love for us.



Pope Francis is energized as he moves through the crowd in the Popemobile. Here in the foreground, the faithful from around the world are reaching out to him while in the background, the people from St. John Paul II's hometown of Wadowice, Poland, are proudly displaying their love for their native son.

taneously canonized — must all be placed within the context of the man performing the Rite of Canonization: Pope Francis, for whose papacy “mercy” has been the theme from the beginning.

In fact, Vatican analyst and author John

L. Allen, Jr., describes “mercy” as “the spiritual cornerstone of Francis’s worldview” and writes in his new book, *Against the Tide: The Radical Leadership of Pope Francis* (Liguori), “Of all the catchphrases Francis has popularized since his election, none is more familiar than

They are essential for believing in God. Not for believing that God exists, but for believing that God is Love, Mercy and Faithfulness. Saint Peter, quoting Isaiah, writes to Christians: “By His wounds you have been healed” (1 Pet 2:24, cf. Is 53:5).

Saint John XXIII and St. John Paul II were not afraid to look upon the wounds of Jesus, to touch His torn hands and His pierced side. They were not ashamed of the flesh of Christ, they were not scandalized by Him, by His cross; they did not despise the flesh of their brother (cf. Is 58:7), because they saw Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles. These were two men of courage, filled with the *parrhesia* of the Holy Spirit, and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God’s goodness and mercy.

They were priests and bishops and popes of the twentieth century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful — faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history; the mercy of God, shown by those five wounds, was more powerful; and more powerful, too, was the closeness of Mary our Mother. ...

May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of Divine Mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves.

► **The complete, official Vatican translation of Pope Francis’ homily.** MH



JOSEPH ROMAGNANO

Pope Francis venerates the relic of St. John Paul II presented by Floribeth Mora, the recipient of the miracle that led to his canonization. She is accompanied by her husband, Edwin. This 50-year-old woman from Costa Rica was instantly healed from a cerebral aneurism through the intercession of John Paul II on May 1, 2011, which was Divine Mercy Sunday and the very day of his beatification.

his mantra, “The Lord never tires of forgiving ... it’s us who get tired of asking for forgiveness.”

When Pope Francis announced the canonization double-header last summer, many saw it as a bold move to underscore the spiritual bond between Pope John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, and Pope John Paul II, who sought to interpret and implement the Council’s teachings.

Indeed, in his opening address for the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII said, “[F]requently the Church has condemned [errors] with the greatest severity. Nowadays ... however, [the Church] prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity.”

Throughout his 26-year pontificate, John Paul II defined the new evangelization through the lens of Divine Mercy.

“There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy — that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God,” he said at the Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Krakow-Lagiewniki, Poland, in 1997.

And now we have Pope Francis — informed by Vatican II, as well as by the papacies of John XXIII and John Paul II — who

has made it clear the Church must go about the business of spreading the Gospel message of mercy. To that end, he holds up as models the two newly canonized saints whom, he said, saw “Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles.”



JOSEPH ROMAGNANO

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is escorted to the canonization liturgy by Archbishop Georg Gänswein (right), his personal secretary and prefect of the Papal Household. Benedict’s presence at the liturgy marked the first time a retired Pope concelerated with the reigning Pontiff. Shortly after his arrival, Benedict was warmly greeted by the cardinals and later by Pope Francis himself.

► **See canonization slideshow.**

group from northern New Jersey, noted how pleased she was to see that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was in attendance at the Mass for Canonization.

“In the new saints and Benedict and now Pope Francis, we have a [continuity] that brings the Church together to share with the world that God is love,” Donna said, “that no matter what we have done in our pasts, God will forgive us and heal us.”

“We have such a beautiful Church,” said Timothy Van Meter of Clifton Park, N.Y., who watched the broadcast. “Pope Francis is our new Divine Mercy Pope.”

‘A Beautiful Church’

At the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., the 19,000-plus attendees included many bleary-eyed pilgrims who had awoken at 3 a.m. to watch the live canonization broadcast from Rome.

Donna Foley, who traveled with a parish

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FELIX CARROLL

Kathleen Ward (second from right) shares an insight from the book *The 'One Thing' Is Three* with other members of her small group during a breakout session at a weekly HAPP meeting in Stockbridge, Mass.

'WISDOM AND WORKS OF MERCY'

Marians launch Stage Two of Hearts Afire Parish-based Programs.

By Chris Sparks

A lot of people are in the business of making things. Some people make mousetraps. Others make planes, trains, and automobiles. Some simply make money.

The goal of the Catholic Church? To make saints.

To help achieve that goal, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have been gradually releasing the Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs (HAPP[®]) since Divine Mercy Sunday in 2012. Stage One of HAPP, "The Two Hearts," uses a group-retreat format to prepare participants to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in *33 Days to Morning Glory*. The second group retreat in this stage then teaches participants to console the merciful Heart of Jesus with Mary as their model, following *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*.

This year on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Marians released "Wisdom and Works of Mercy," Stage Two of HAPP's programs for small groups in parishes. It's a complete course of faith formation, presenting an overview of Catholic theology that focuses on our sharing in the very life of the Holy Trinity

and then explores the practical implications for us, as we seek to live in a communion of love with God and each other. The goal is for group members to take the faith from their heads to their hearts, and then into their lives.

"If we had had this [program] as a primer at the time of Vatican II, the hearts of the faithful would have been set on fire," said Kate R. "How I feel I must make up for lost time!"

Participants read *The 'One Thing' is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything* and meet weekly for 10 group-study sessions that include watching DVD presentations and taking part in small faith-sharing groups. Then, they spend up to a month reading *You Did It to Me': A Practical*

Guide to Mercy in Action, which gives them concrete ways to live out the Catholic faith by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, clearly organized according to the five Scriptural categories found in Matthew 25:31-46. In a final session, the participants gather together to discuss what they plan to do, collectively and individually, to put mercy into action.

(Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, is both the author of the books and the presenter on the DVDs.)

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“This study has changed how I see not only myself but also others as members of the Body of Christ.”
— Patty E.

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HAPP

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There's no other small-group faith-sharing program for parishes that offers such complete formation — and “Wisdom and Works of Mercy” succeeds, according to participants in the pilot groups that met across the country in early 2014.

“As a convert, I found the group study to be especially informative and helpful in my growth with Christ,” said Ellen P.

Kate R., a parishioner at St. Peter's in Great Barrington, Mass., said that the presentations “really do set your heart on fire for Christ. You want to do more good. This [program] has enriched my experience of the Mass and has opened my eyes to what the teachings of the Church are really about.

“If we had had this [program] as a primer at the time of Vatican II, the hearts of the faithful would have been set on fire. How I feel I must make up for lost time!”

And it's already motivated one participant to live the works of mercy by spreading the Good News however she can.

“The DVD presentations talk a lot about evangelization. I'm not even trying, and I feel like things are just happening,” said Kristie P.

from St. Patrick's Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. “Random people are just talking to me about our faith, or I find the opportunity to talk to them. I'm a nurse, so I deal with a lot of people when they're in difficult times in their lives. It's random, but it's really cool.”

“The Hearts Afire program is truly changing my life,” said James K. “I am slowly but surely growing in holiness and desire someday to be a saint. This group study ... has brought me closer to my God.”

Eric Mahl, coordinator of Outreach and Evangelization for the Evangelization and Development Office, led a small group that was part of the pilot group in Stockbridge, Mass. He saw how the program prepares participants to perform works of mercy and take part in the new evangelization. “I was so impressed with everyone in the group,” he said. “Before they started the program, many of them had never heard of any of

these theological concepts. But by the end of the course, they were speaking with ease on these very same concepts — not only speaking on them but sharing how they are now living these truths in their lives.”

“The Hearts Afire program is truly changing my life,” said James K. “I am slowly but surely growing in holiness and desire someday to be a saint. This group study ... has brought me closer to my God. Keep up the great work.”

To learn more about HAPP, visit us online at allheartsafire.org, call 1-877-200-4277, or see the facing page for more information.

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Then-Marian seminarians visit with Fr. Mark Garrow, MIC, the weekend before he passed away in 2007. The fact that seven of those shown now serve as Marian priests is a tribute to Fr. Mark's example and dedication.

COMFORTING THE SICK

How St. John Paul II and a beloved Marian encouraged mercy for the ill.

Excerpted from 'You Did It to Me'

"Comfort the sick? But I don't want to get sick!" We've all experienced this kind of attitude, either on the giving or receiving end. This is understandable, but somebody has got to help the sick, because the sick person is Christ.

Maybe the problem isn't that we're worried about getting sick. Maybe it's just that it's not always easy to be around those who are suffering — that, at least, has been my experience.

When I used to work at a hospital as a seminarian, I had the hardest time walking into each patient's room. In fact, instead of doing my duty, I was often tempted to just go to the chapel or procrastinate by chatting at the nurses' station. Because I struggled with this, I felt like such a failure. "How can I become a priest," I thought, "when I can hardly face the sick?"

Later, I was comforted to read in *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way* by St. Pope John Paul II that he also had to confront this challenge:

I remember that at the beginning the sick intimidated me. I needed a lot of courage to stand before a sick person and enter, so to speak, into his physical and spiritual pain, not to betray discomfort, and to show at least a little loving compassion (Warner Books, 2004).

That's exactly how I felt! Whew. When I first read those words, I figured there was hope for me, especially when I read what follows. John Paul goes on to share a discovery that takes him beyond his initial discomfort:

Only later did I begin to grasp the profound meaning of the mystery of human suffering. In the weakness of the sick, I saw emerging ever more clearly a new strength — *the strength of mercy*. In a sense, the sick provoke mercy. ... By their illness and suffering they call forth acts of mercy and create the possibility for accomplishing them (emphasis added).

Ah, so here's a key to the mystery of why it's often so hard to see suffering. It calls us out of ourselves. It challenges us to forget ourselves, to leave the comfort of our egos, to think of another and suffer with him. Yet, when we accept the invitation to take that step out of ourselves, we get taken up by "the strength of mercy," which brings us, almost effortlessly, to carry out acts of love and compassion.

Tactfully and without pulling away our compassion, we can also remind the sick of their invaluable ministry of offering up their suffering by joining it to the perfect and acceptable sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

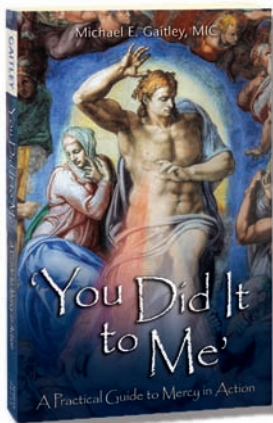
To illustrate this point, I'd like to briefly tell the

story of Fr. Mark Garrow, MIC.

He was the superior general of my religious community. After his demanding six-year term in Rome had ended, he was basically allowed to choose nearly any assignment in the community. Surprisingly, he chose one of the most difficult positions of all: novice master, which is to be in charge of the spiritual formation of the men who are preparing to make their first profession of vows. And something made this position especially difficult: I was one of his novices!

During that novitiate year, I got to know a man of deep faith, hard work, tender love, and incredible humility. For instance, instead of simply assigning us novices the usual menial tasks that are part of novitiate formation, this former superior general took the lowliest jobs. I clearly remember seeing him on his hands and knees diligently scrubbing the toilets and showers, and being the first one to jump up to clear the tables and do the dishes. Also, he had a way of noticing if someone in the community was going through a difficult time and would do little things to cheer that person up.

One day, shortly after my novitiate, Fr. Mark came up to me in the library where I was studying and shared that he had just been diagnosed with tongue cancer. He said it was



To order *'You Did It to Me'* by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, visit shopmercy.org/b22 or call 1-800-462.7426. The product code is B22-2ME. The price is \$14.95.

serious, asked for my prayers, and explained that he would be offering up the pain for all us men in formation: the postulants, novices, and seminarians.

Father Mark endured months of radiation and chemotherapy treatments, which, unfortunately, made his cancer worse. During that difficult time, he could hardly talk, could only consume liquid, and the whole right side of his face became painfully swollen. Eventually, he had to remain in bed or in an easy chair from which he would offer Mass in a barely audible way.

Following Fr. Mark's death from cancer in 2007, all the men in formation in our community in the United States personally experienced the grace of his "offered up" sufferings — and then the boom happened. We quickly went from having less than 10 men in formation the year of Fr. Mark's passing to nearly 30 by 2013, and we believe this happened as a result of Fr. Mark lovingly accepting his suffering and uniting it to Christ on the cross.

As he suffered, Fr. Mark himself believed his suffering had value and would bear fruit, and this was a great comfort to him. So, let's comfort the sick in our own lives by reminding them that they and their suffering have value and can bear great fruit for the kingdom. **MH**

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Monthly healing Mass highlights Christ's ministry to sick

by Felix Carroll

The music begins as people from near and far file into the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., some with burdens almost too heavy to bear, some who have experienced graces too great to remain silent.

People like Robin Daub, who drove an hour from Connecticut with her 9-year-old daughter. Her family's finances have reached critical condition. Her husband's health is failing. Her trust in God is waning.

People like Bonnie Nataro of West Springfield, Mass., who comes to give thanks that three of her four grown children have returned to the faith. "I'm also praying that the Lord gives me a physical healing," she says. A chronic medical condition has worsened.

In the sacristy below, Fr. Bob Shaldone, SOLT, slips into his vestments. It's nearing 7 p.m. on March 27. It's the last Thursday of the month, and during this Mass, there will be praise and worship, music, testimony, and the laying on of hands.

Once vested, and before he heads up to celebrate the healing Mass, Fr. Shaldone joins in prayer with members of the Mother of Divine Mercy Prayer Group, which has hosted the Shrine's monthly healing Masses for 25 years.

"Lord, if not physical healings, may all those who are with us this evening be convinced of Your love and mercy to give us the strength to get through our difficulties," Fr. Shaldone prays.

"Amen," the members of the group respond.

Together, they file upstairs to the sanctuary, where the live music has grown in power and volume.

The crowd claps and sings along with the band to the hymn "The Mighty One of Israel." By slow degrees, the atmosphere turns tranquil as the exuberant praise and worship transitions to soft whispers. The piano and guitars grow faint.



Father Bob Shaldone, SOLT, leads the prayer before the Shrine's monthly healing Mass on March 27. Father Richard McAlear, OMI, will lead the June 26 Mass. He is known internationally for his healing ministry.

Father Shaldone steps up to the pulpit. "God is going to do some mighty things here tonight," he says. And he's correct.

"I'm just overcome with peace," says Robin while buttoning up her daughter's coat three hours later before the two head out into the cold evening. "I know God is with me all the way."

Healing Masses, which have grown in popularity for more than 30 years through the charismatic renewal, are based on Christ's public ministry where He healed the physically and spiritually sick and then empowered His apostles to do likewise by sending them the Holy Spirit.

Lorraine Ward, who coordinates the Mother of Divine Mercy Prayer Group, says miracles have occurred at the Shrine's healing Masses. "Some are physical healings," she says. "But most are in the form of people coming to know the Lord in a more powerful way."

"We are always quick to point out it is the Lord who does the healing, not the priests," says Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, the chaplain for the prayer group. "The priests are just His instruments."

For the Shrine's full schedule, including its healing Mass at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, visit thedivinemercy.org/shrine.

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New saints, initiatives highlight weekend

More than 24,000 pilgrims came to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., for the annual Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend on April 26-27. The celebration included Mass, Adoration, music, and opportunities for confession. Sunday's celebration, which drew an estimated 19,000 pilgrims, was broadcast live around the world on EWTN.

This year, Divine Mercy Sunday was filled with a special significance as the universal Church celebrated the dual canonization in Rome of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

"This Divine Mercy Sunday fell within the Golden Jubilee of the Second Vatican Council," noted Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, "and this Council was central to the pontificates of both of these saints — from Pope John XXIII's convocation of the Council to Pope John Paul II's long focus on implementing it within the life of the Church."

During the weekend, the Marian Fathers launched a number of new initiatives, includ-



Despite chilly temperatures, wind, mostly cloudy skies, and some rain, more than 19,000 pilgrims came to the National Shrine in Stockbridge, Mass., to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

ing: Stage Two of the Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs, called "Wisdom and Works of Mercy"; new Marian Press titles on Mary, the works of mercy, and the Stations of the Cross; and the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, a program in which young men spend a year with the Marianists to discern their vocation in life while performing works of mercy.

For more on Divine Mercy Sunday and the Marianists' new initiatives, visit thedivinemercy.org/ewtn.

Shrine announces special events for summer and fall

As the Marianists and their staff at the National Shrine gear up for the pilgrimage season, Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, announced the following schedule of special events through early fall:

- **June 15** — Portuguese Speakers Day
- **June 22** — Solemn Corpus Christi procession after 10:30 a.m. Mass
- **June 28** — Filipino Day
- **July 16** — Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- **Aug. 9** — Tenth Annual Encuentro Latino
- **Aug. 13-15** — Assumption Triduum
- **Aug. 15-22** — Marian Week
- **Aug 23** — Vietnamese Day
- **Aug. 26** — Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa

- **Sept. 7** — National Grandparents Day
- **Sept. 21** — Polish Day
- **Sept. 28** — Fourth Annual Mercy for Souls Conference
- **Oct. 4** — St. Maria Faustina Day observed

Each day, pilgrims can participate in the Shrine's daily schedule of Holy Masses, confession, Adoration, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, and Benediction.

"The National Shrine offers a setting conducive to experiencing God's merciful love," Fr. Ken says. "We look forward to seeing you this pilgrimage season."

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

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Encuentro Latino
2014

CALLED BY MARY

As he prepares for his final vows, this Marian seminarian shares his story.

Interview by Chris Sparks

Seven, possibly eight, Marian seminarians are preparing to profess their perpetual vows on Sept. 5 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. One of their number, Br. Michael Baker, MIC, shares some highlights of his journey to final vows in the Marian community.

Why the Marians?

I was looking for a community that loves our Lord and Our Lady, is in communion with the Holy Father, and is faithful to the teachings of the Magisterium. I found that in the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

Have you always been Catholic?

I was baptized Catholic, but I didn't grow up practicing the faith. However, my parents sent me to a Christian elementary school where I was taught, "A good Christian prays every day." From then on, I prayed every day and enjoyed a relationship with our Lord. My grandmother and great-grandmother both taught me the Our Father, and from time to time, I would see my great-grandmother praying the Rosary. In fact, she gave me my first rosary, which I still have.

While growing up, I always told myself that when I got married, I would get married in the Church and begin practicing my faith. By God's grace, I began working for a company owned by a faithful Catholic, and my immediate supervisor was also a practicing Catholic. While working for them, my mom and I traveled to Italy to visit our family. Through seeing the beautiful churches, religious art, and wayside shrines of Italy, I found myself awe-struck by the beauty of our faith.

So at the gentle invitation of my friends at work, I joined the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. It was at the same



FR. ANGELO CASIMIRO, MIC

Brother Michael Baker, MIC, believes that Our Lady confirmed he was being called to join the Marian Fathers. It involved his birthday, the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, and the date on vocation material from the Marians all lining up on Oct. 13.

parish where I was baptized, which happened to be their parish as well.

What were you doing before you entered the Marians?

I was working as a television producer for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) in Birmingham, Ala. While in the RCIA program, I had providentially come across a television show called *Mother Angelica Live*, and I fell in love with Mother Angelica instantly. She became a spiritual mother to me via cable TV! And God in His goodness brought me to EWTN years later.

Life was good. God blessed me with good friends and co-workers, a good job, a place to live, and the beautiful gift of being able to spend time with my spiritual mother. But as much as I loved where I worked, I still didn't feel complete. I felt called to the priesthood and religious life.

How did you find the Marians?

I had attended a Divine Mercy conference in San Diego some years before moving to Birmingham and heard the personal testimony of Fr. Donald Calloway [MIC]. Later, I met with him to talk about the possibility of a vocation with the Marians, but I didn't initially feel called to the Congregation. In retrospect, I realize it just wasn't the right time according to God's plan. However, while working at EWTN, I was assigned to work on promotions for Divine Mercy Sunday and was later assigned to produce a spot on vocations with Fr. Calloway. These encounters with the Divine Mercy, the Marians, and Fr. Calloway were God's way of preparing me for what was to come. I also had a brief encounter with Fr. Seraphim Michalenko [MIC], who would end up playing a significant role in my formation as a Marian.

The key moment came as I was praying in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima about a week before Oct. 13 (my birthday and the anni-



▶ Brother Thaddaeus tells his story.
Brother Michael Baker, MIC (left), stands with Br. Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC, who will also profess his perpetual vows on September 5 in Washington, D.C.

versary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima). While praying, I heard an interior voice that said, "I'm going to give you a gift on your birthday, but you're not going to recognize it right away." The night before my birthday, I felt inspired to e-mail Fr. Calloway (the vocation director) and ask for some information on joining the Marians. On my birthday, I tried to remain as alert as I could to try and figure out what this gift would be. But I didn't recognize anything in particular. About a week later, an envelope arrived in the mail dated Oct. 13. It was the vocation information I had asked for and the gift that I was so eagerly waiting for. I filled out the form, came for my vocation visit,

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Connect with Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, the spiritual director of the Thirteenth of the Month Club, to deepen your devotion to Mary and her Son.

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► **Blessed Stanislaus's cause for canonization advances.**

Graces Received

'Graces for my grandchildren'

'Lekha quickly recovered'

I would like to share my experience receiving graces for my grandchildren through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus.

My granddaughter Lekha was sick with a fever and cough for days. Her doctor prescribed an antibiotic, but her fever and cough returned within a week. The doctor was considering admitting her to the hospital due to the recurring high fever. Again, I asked Blessed Stanislaus for his help. Soon after I had finished, my daughter called to say the doctor had found a strep infection. Lekha quickly recovered after being given a different antibiotic.

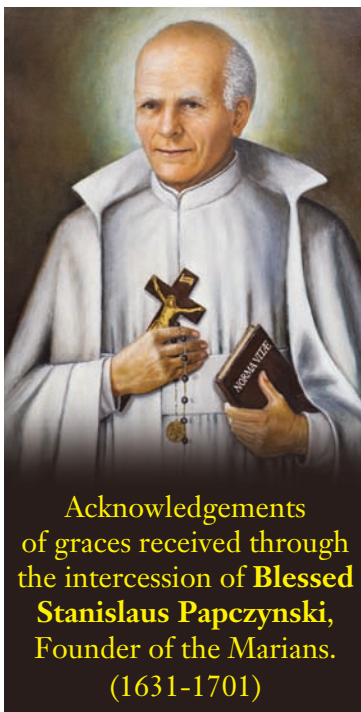
In January, I started a novena to Blessed Stanislaus asking for help for my grandson Kieran. He would not transition to bottle feeding after his mom went back to work. For three days, I struggled to feed him with the bottle during the day. He adamantly refused, eating only at night with his mom. The specialist told my daughter that Kieran could take up to 10 weeks to transition. On the fourth day, Kieran still refused the bottle. I said aloud in frustration that I had given up. Then, I prayed quietly and tried one more time. Kieran surprisingly took the bottle then and throughout the rest of the day. I knew Blessed Stanislaus had interceded yet again for my family.

— LC, Winchester Center, Conn.

'Her kidney function is back to normal'

Last year, my sister Eileen was diagnosed with kidney failure. Her lab results were getting progressively worse.

She was put on the donor list, and her family was tested to see if anyone was compatible. It



turned out that her 21-year-old daughter could donate one of her kidneys.

It was during this time that I came across an article about the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. I asked for his help.

A few weeks before the transplant surgery was scheduled, my sister's lab reports showed her numbers had improved. I continued to pray, and as time went by, her numbers improved so much that she did not need the kidney transplant. The doctor could give no medical reason why this happened. Now, her kidney function is back to normal. She is no longer diagnosed with kidney failure. I want to thank

Blessed Stanislaus for his intercession.

— JH, Garnet Valley, Pa.

'This time I passed'

I had to take an exam for my work because they are requiring new credentials. I studied as hard as I could, but I did not pass.

After the exam, I came across an issue of *Marian Helper* magazine. There was a letter about someone passing his or her exam through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus, so I asked him to intercede for me.

I took the test a second time. It was very difficult. This time I passed! I want to thank Blessed Stanislaus. My mind isn't as good as it used to be, so I know it must have been a grace received through his intercession.

— CR, Hazlet, N.J.

For a Blessed Stanislaus prayercard (B22-CPPC), 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.

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Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

Charlotte Morris became inspired when she read “Remembered on Eden Hill” in the spring issue of *Marian Helper*.

“Although I have been to Eden Hill many times, I was not aware that the Marians were offering memorials at the St. John Paul II Plaza,” Charlotte said. “I figured it would be a good way to remember all the members of my family.”

She had 42 pavers engraved. Charlotte says the memorials mean a lot to her because the people who are memorialized in the bricks and the person who made the memorial gift will be remembered every day in Holy Mass and in the 3 o’clock

prayers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. They will also be remembered at the Shrine once a year in a special Mass on Oct. 22, St. John Paul II’s feast day.

“One of the sad things today is that a lot of people either don’t remember to pray for those who are no longer here, or they just don’t believe in praying,” she said. “I’m going to be 73 years old in May, and my husband died on Jan. 2, 2012, so I don’t know how much longer I’m going to be here. It gives me great comfort to think that when I’m not here, my family will not be forgotten.”

Charlotte says she also had her name engraved on a paving stone.

“I am trying to pay my debt before I go, but you never know about those things,” she said. “You know how we see things and how God sees things can be very different.”

The fact that the memorials are in a plaza

dedicated to newly canonized John Paul II was important to Charlotte.

“My husband and I were very fortunate to have seen Pope John Paul II in August 1985 when we went to Italy for our 25th wedding anniversary,” she said. “It was the most wonderful experience. He was such an inspirational person. By the way he lived his life, he gave us a tremendous example.”

Another reason Charlotte is excited about the memorials is because she and her husband loved coming to Eden Hill.

“Before we moved, I used to go to Mercy Sunday every year with my two sisters,” she said. “We took our granddaughter to Eden Hill when she was little. It was a wonderful experience. We went to Eden Hill to pray for my husband’s sister when she was diagnosed with cancer.

More often than not, it was my husband’s suggestion that we visit Eden Hill, so that is why I wanted to be sure his name was there and that he would be prayed for by the Marian Fathers.”

Charlotte says she is looking forward to seeing the pavers when they are installed.

“I talked to one of my sisters who still lives in upstate New York, and she and my brother-in-law assured me that they would take me to see the pavers as soon as they have been installed,” she said. “But the real surprise is that their names will be there in the St. John Paul II Plaza, and they don’t know it.”

Like Charlotte, benefactors can have a name engraved in a paving stone that will be installed in the St. John Paul II Plaza.

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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Charlotte Morris has engraved 42 pavers to ensure all her family members will be remembered by the Marian Fathers daily during Mass and at the 3 o’clock hour.

GET YOUR ST. JOHN PAUL II IMAGE TODAY

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CALLED BY MARY

Continued from page 29

and was accepted several months later. All the doors just opened up. So I attribute my vocation to Our Lady of Fatima.

As you prepare for final vows, can you share highlights from your time of formation?

My time in formation has been a long and arduous road, but I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. In fact, I wish that every Catholic man and woman could experience a novitiate — it is truly a life-changing experience. One of the highlights from my time in formation has been learning about Mary's virtues and praying the Chaplet of the Ten Evangelical Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It's helped me to see my relationship with her in a whole new light. I now realize that being a Marian doesn't just mean having a devotion to Our Lady; we must also strive to live out her virtues.

Ever since joining the Marians, my desire to pray for the Holy Souls has grown as well. One of my favorite practices is walking in

a cemetery and interceding for the dead by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. When I am there praying the chaplet, I often get the sense our Lord entrusts those particular souls to me for that time.

I had often prayed the chaplet before entering the Marians, but it wasn't until we read the entire *Diary of St. Faustina* in novitiate that I came to see the depth, power, and beauty of its message of God's unfathomable mercy. Ever since then, the message and devotion of the Divine Mercy have been a central part of my spirituality. I didn't really understand why Jesus had entrusted the promotion of such an important and powerful message to our small religious community, until one day, St. Louis Marie de Montfort's axiom "to Jesus through Mary" came to me in prayer. Then I understood: Mary is leading the faithful to her Son, the Divine Mercy, through us.

"Ever since joining the Marians, my desire to pray for the Holy Souls has grown as well. One of my favorite practices is walking in a cemetery and interceding for the dead by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet,"
Br. Michael Baker, MIC, said.

To support Br. Michael and our other Marian seminarians, call 1-800-671-2020 or visit marian.org/vocsupport.

► **More of Br. Michael's interview.** MH

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Outstanding Helpers

by Ellen Miller

Ned's special connection to Eden Hill

When you step into Our Lady of Mercy Candle Shrine on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass., you see more than 2,500 votive candles. One is always lit for Sheila, representing the prayers ascending to heaven for the blessed repose of her soul.

Ned, Sheila's husband of 46 years, visits Eden Hill each month, and his first stop is always at the candle shrine. There, he offers prayers for Sheila and their three children and four grandchildren.

Ned describes why he started making his monthly pilgrimage: "When Sheila was very ill, I made a promise to the Lord that I would do my best to go to Mass every day. She did not recover, and after her funeral, I started attending Mass regularly.

"At daily Mass one day, Mike, a former student of mine, asked me if I had ever been to the Marian Fathers' place in Stockbridge. He was also going through a rough time and was attending Mass frequently.

"When I first came to Eden Hill, I was full of questions. I wasn't angry at God, but I had a lot of bitterness that Sheila had died. She was the glue and the strength for our whole family. She brought great peace into my life."

He smiles as he describes his first visit. "I was so impressed with the view from the top of the hill," he recalls. "As I walked around, I felt a great sense of peace. I sat on a bench and just absorbed the peacefulness. Then, I went into the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, which is beautiful.

"One time, my daughter Julie came with me," Ned says. "She found out about the Circle of Light [the opportunity to request prayer and the lighting of a votive candle for a particular intention, either each month or each week



FELIX CARROLL

Ned visits Eden Hill each month, and his first stop is always at Our Lady of Mercy Candle Shrine. There, he prays for Sheila, his late wife, and their three children and four grandchildren.

for a year], and she requested a weekly candle for her mother.

"On my next visit, I went to the candle shrine, and I met Br. Paul, who was praying and lighting candles as part of the Marian's ministry of prayer. I asked him about the candle for Sheila, and he picked up one of the Circle of Light candles and said, 'It would be a candle like this.' I was astonished to see that he had picked up Sheila's candle!"

Since then, Ned has requested Circle of Light candles for his children as well, which give him even more reasons to visit.

On his monthly visits, Ned often sees Br. Paul in the candle shrine. He then makes his way to the National Shrine for confession, the Rosary, Mass, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Perpetual Novena.

"It's a full day," he says, but there is even more. "Since the outdoor Stations of the Cross were installed, I pray them at the end of my visit. The one that impresses me the most is the Crucifixion. Even if you are not walking the Way of the Cross, you see it as you are heading for the National Shrine. It is powerful."

Whether it's through his visits or through the candles lit for the special intentions of his wife and children, Ned feels a special connection to Eden Hill.

If you would like your loved ones to be remembered in prayer on Eden Hill through the lighting of candles, please get in touch with me.



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

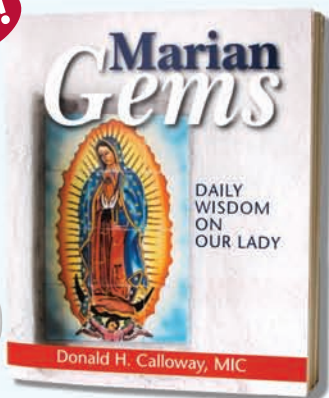
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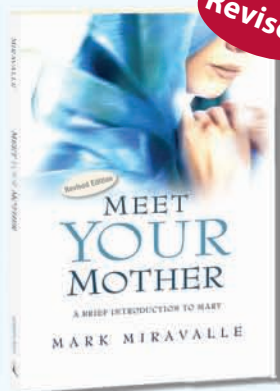
In *Marian Gems: Daily Wisdom on Our Lady*, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, shares a gem or quote on Mary for each day of the year drawn from the writings of the popes, saints, blessed, and venerables, which makes the book ideal for daily prayer and reflection. Father Calloway has arranged the gems with the Church Year in mind so that, whenever possible, the quote complements a Marian feast day, a saint's feast day, or a particular liturgical season. For each day, Fr. Calloway also provides a title of Our Lady that you can use in closing your time of prayer. These gems first appeared in Fr. Calloway's book *Under the Mantle* — he began collecting them when he was a seminarian.

Meet Your Mother

A Brief Introduction to Mary

"I'm so grateful that Dr. Mark Miravalle wrote this book — there's such a need for it. During my travels, I meet so many people who are just awakening to the idea of Mary as their mother," says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, in his foreword to *Meet Your Mother*.

"People seem to be drawing closer to her now than ever before. Well, this book is the best brief introduction I've ever read." This revised edition includes a new conclusion as well as an appendix on Marian consecration. The text has also been edited throughout for a smoother reading experience to help you better grasp Dr. Miravalle's Marian wisdom.



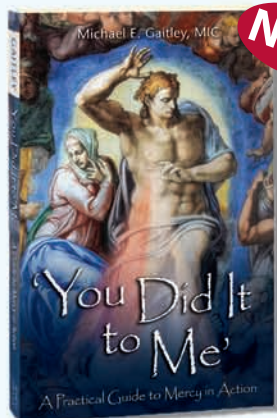
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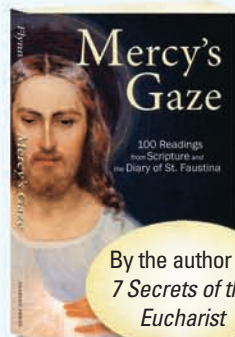
"In '*You Did It to Me*,' Fr. Michael Gaitley [MIC] has a genius for bringing together the spiritual and corporal works of mercy under the umbrella of 'The Five Scriptural Works of Mercy' that Jesus will use to judge us at the end of the world, Matthew 25:31-46. He then enriches these Scriptural texts on mercy with the practical insights of St. Pope John Paul II, St. Faustina, and Pope Francis. He also has a very fertile imagination in bringing to life practical ways of implementing these works of mercy, together with a plan of action for making them concrete and livable. I could not recommend this book more highly."

— Bishop Robert J. Hermann
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of St. Louis

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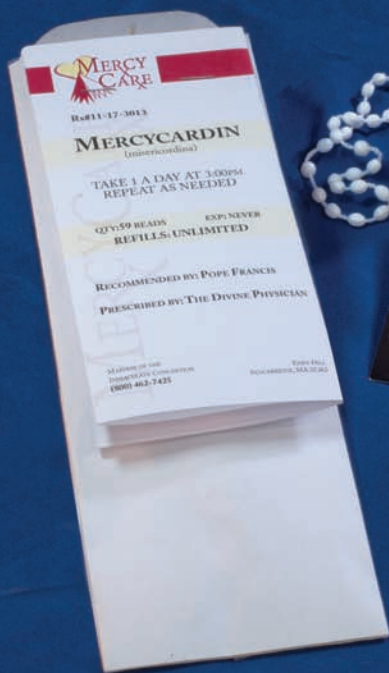
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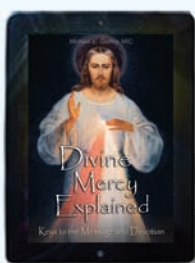
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'A wonderful tool to challenge my fellow parishioners'

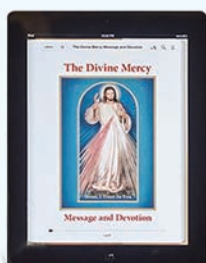
I ordered 1,200 Mercycardin kits after seeing it in the Friends of Mercy newsletter. I thought the kits would be a wonderful tool to challenge my fellow parishioners to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily. I asked permission from our pastor to hand them out on Divine Mercy Sunday, and he agreed. We gave out about 200 at each of our six Masses on the feast day.

— Marissa C.

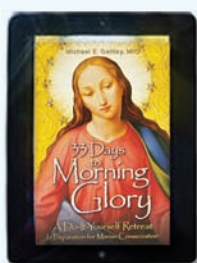
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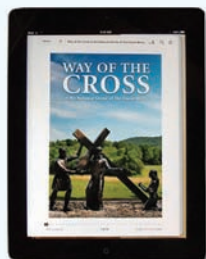
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Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper

Serving the Shrine's pilgrims

Pilgrims often tell me how special a place Eden Hill is for them.

One group of priests really touched my heart last year. A group of about seven or eight priests came to Eden Hill. One of the priests explained why they were visiting. Two years ago, he and some

"I'm constantly blessed with a renewed hope for the mission that we're doing."

of his community, along with their superior, came and celebrated Mass. The superior was not in good health, and he had a strong devotion to St. Joseph. His wish was to celebrate Mass at the St. Joseph Shrine here on Eden Hill. They made their pilgrimage, and shortly after, the superior passed away. He had been their superior for many years, so they wanted to visit again because they were grieving. I helped them organize the pilgrimage. They celebrated Mass, and they were so grateful that we allowed them to spend time here. For me, being able to help them was very fulfilling.

Another aspect of being part of the pilgrimage office is that we get to see a really big spectrum in terms of ages visiting, and I love that. We see the older folks coming with their families. We see the younger generation with their children, especially for special events like our ethnic days. It is so wonderful to see.

We also often have pilgrims who want to see their memorials. I got a call from a lady who said her goal before she died was to visit the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and see her husband's memorial paver that has been placed in the St. John Paul II Plaza.

The stories that people tell me about why they love Eden Hill — they fill me with such a sense of peace. When I talk to the pilgrims, I'm constantly blessed with a renewed hope for the mission that we're doing.

Valerie Laurizio works at National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., as the pilgrimage and events coordinator.



Val and Fr. Ken team up to help pilgrims encounter God's mercy during their visits to Eden Hill.

There's something about the natural and spiritual beauty of Eden Hill that draws pilgrims to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy here in Stockbridge, Mass. And as Shrine rector, I love hearing their stories.

We recently had a group of ladies visit, and they said that as

they were coming up the drive, they could feel a sense of peace. They felt a sense of beauty and wonder.

They said it just seemed like this was holy ground. One of the ladies said she knew that God was here.

Then, there are the pilgrims who have heard something about Divine Mercy and come seeking spiritual and physical healings or a deeper conversion and renewal in their lives.

With the more than 50,000 pilgrims who come each year, my main concern as rector is making sure that they have the opportunity to receive God's merciful love, especially through the Sacraments and prayer. This is why our normal daily schedule at the Shrine includes the opportunity to attend Mass, go to confession, make a Holy Hour, recite the Rosary, and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena.

Our life-size Stations of the Cross here on Eden Hill are also helping our pilgrims rediscover the value of making the Way of the Cross. It's encouraging to see that many of them are now praying the Stations as part of their pilgrimage. We even had a lady bring a group of 60 students to Eden Hill on Good Friday to walk and pray the Stations.

May the Lord bless and strengthen each of our pilgrims in His great mercy!

Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, is the Shrine rector at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. He joined the Marians in 2002 and was ordained a priest in 2010.

"My main concern as rector is making sure that [pilgrims] have the opportunity to receive God's merciful love."

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'How we heard the call'

Father Jim McCormack, MIC:

I was searching for the right community. I was friends with Fr. Michael Gaitley [MIC], and he recommended the Marian Fathers to me. Once I discovered what an awesome Congregation the Marians were, with their zealous love for Mary Immaculate and the Divine Mercy, I applied and was accepted.

Marian Helpers Mary and Jeff:

We first met the Marians — through Fr. Joe Roesch — at a bereaved parents' conference in 2001. Great Marians like Fr. Joe and Fr. Jim McCormack continually bring Divine Mercy to a wounded world. Where would we be without our Marians? They show us the way — to Jesus through Mary, with total trust.

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:
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Write: **Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**
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Marians of the Immaculate Conception
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Steubenville, OH 43952

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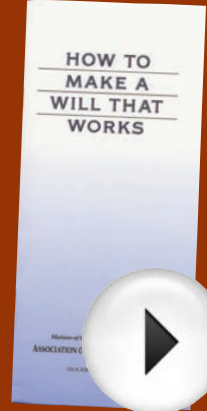
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