

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception

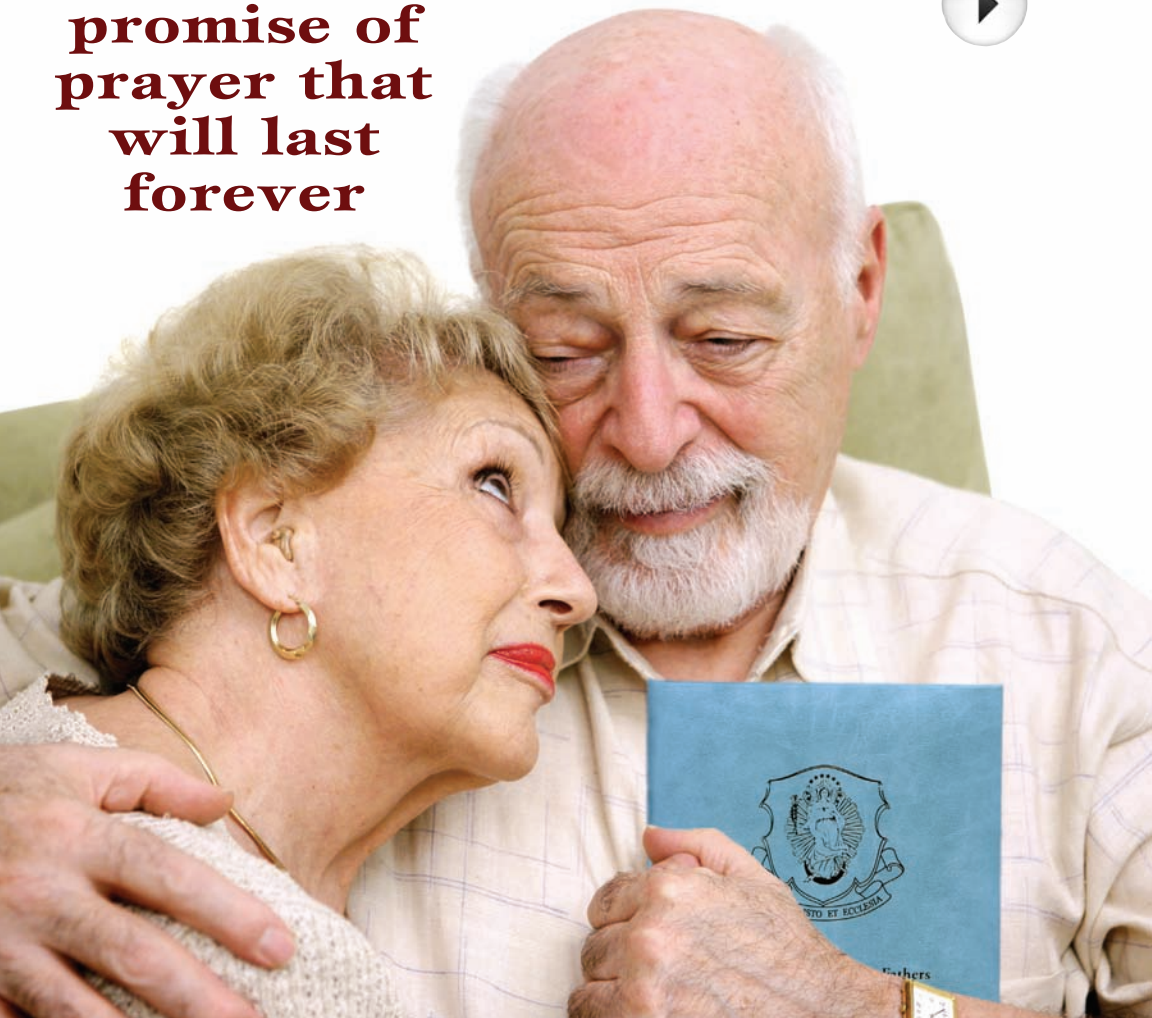
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Farewell to David Came

Longtime editor
of *Marian Helper*



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MARIAN HELPER

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'Father Joseph, MIC'

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On the cover: Marian Press Executive Editor David Came stands in front of the proofs of a recent issue of *Marian Helper* magazine. After more than 18 years, overseeing the publication of more than 75 books and booklets, more than 650 issues of newsletters, and 71 issues of this magazine, David is retiring. Photo by Felix Carroll.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MARIAN HELPER is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association.

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Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

The Marians are a Congregation of nearly 500 priests and brothers in 20 countries around the world. We support the Holy Father and embrace the official teachings of the Catholic Church in our special calling to:



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



Association of Marian Helpers (AMH)

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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How to use this flipbook

Learn how to zoom in and out of pages, share pages or the whole magazine, and much more with this tutorial video.



Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

Why now is the time of mercy

As a Marian priest, I am often asked what brought me to this community. The answer is simple: Divine Mercy!

Back in 2000, I moved to North Carolina to start my own business after receiving my MBA and working at a Fortune 500 company in another state. I thought I was just moving for reasons related to my business, but I soon discovered God had His reasons.

In short, the Lord wanted me to come back to Him, and He used the vibrant faith life of my new parish to draw me in. Not only did I become “hooked” on daily Mass, Bible study classes, and Eucharistic Adoration, but the “bait” of Divine Mercy finally caught me for the Lord.

It happened through a priest who revealed to me a truth of Divine Mercy that changed my life forever.

During a meeting with him, I shared the sad news that my grandmother had committed suicide several years earlier and that I was deeply concerned about her eternal fate. The priest then told me, “Go home tonight and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the salvation of your grandmother’s soul.”

I responded, “Father, she died 10 years ago. She is either in heaven (I hope) or hell, and my prayers today cannot affect her judgment or eternal destiny. About all my prayers can do now is maybe relieve some of her suffering if she is in purgatory.”

Lovingly, the priest informed me that since God is outside of time (there is no past or future for God), the grace from my prayers can be applied to her soul at the moment of her judgment, even if she died 10 years in the past or will die 10 years in the future.

“That is

how merciful our Lord is,” he said. “He will even allow us to help our loved ones later in life if we weren’t present to them or praying for them at the time of their death, and one of the best ways to do this is through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.”

This priest’s words totally blew me away. I had never thought that God could be so kind and merciful that He would allow me to help save my grandmother through prayers said so long after her death. As I reflected on this amazing grace, something inside told me that I would spend my life making known the good news of God’s merciful love. In fact, shortly after this experience, I decided to join the Marian Fathers, one of the main communities entrusted with spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

To this day, my life as a Marian priest is still all about God’s mercy. And this is why I was so thrilled to learn that Pope Francis has proclaimed an extraordinary “Jubilee Year of Mercy” that will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015- Nov. 20, 2016, throughout the Church ([see our news feature on page 8](#)).

To give you an idea of just how significant this proclamation is, think about this: We have not had a Jubilee Year since 2000. Also, we have not had an “extraordinary” Jubilee Year since 1983, which celebrated 1,950 years since Christ redeemed us. In fact, while this will be the 30th Jubilee Year in the history of the Church, it will be only the fourth extraordinary Jubilee Year. This shows the crucial task that I have as a Marian Father and that you have as a Marian Helper in spreading this *timely* message and devotion.

So please look to future issues of this magazine for insights into how you can prepare for and celebrate this unprecedented time of mercy in the life of the Church. God’s mercy is open to everyone. All we have to do is turn back to Him with sincere hearts and ask for His forgiveness, knowing that He, as our loving Father, will always welcome us back.

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

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Father Joseph's Mailbox

We received many calls, emails, and letters from Marian Helpers letting us know how touched they were by the article on Blanche Koprek and her work with the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline.

'What an extraordinary woman'

I cannot tell you how absolutely edified I was when I read the article "Blanche storms heaven for you" in the Spring 2015 issue of *Marian Helper* magazine. What an extraordinary woman! That is what every parish needs — someone like Blanche. I would like to "step into her shoes" one day and do the same. I will be 61 this year, so maybe the time has come for me to do just that.

Please tell Blanche that I have added her to my spiritual family and will be praying for her every day. Also, ask her to pray for my spiritual and temporal needs, which are many. Thank you for including this article in your latest *Marian Helper*.

LF, Spokane Valley, Washington

'She is an inspiration'

I just read about Blanche in *Marian Helper*. She is an inspiration! I have been praying that the Lord will give me a mission, but the article has shown me that there is no need to wait — simply pray and serve like she does. Thank you, Blanche, for all your prayers.

— SS, Mystic, Connecticut

'May God bless Blanche always'

While I was baking cookies, I had the Spring 2015 issue of *Marian Helper* magazine on the kitchen counter. I had it open to the article on Blanche Koprek.

As I baked each pan of cookies, I prayed for her and thanked God for the gift of her life — for all those who know her and for all the people for whom she has prayed. May God



FELIX CARROLL
Twice a week, Blanche Koprek volunteers her time to pray *individually* for hundreds of intentions sent in to the *Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline*.

bless Blanche always and keep her close to His Sacred Heart.

— EC, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

'I was deeply impressed'

I was deeply impressed with the article "Blanche storms heaven for you" in *Marian Helper* magazine. I, too, have a long list of dear loved ones that I pray for. I'm 92, widowed, and have two grown children who are ill. I'm homebound with a variety of ailments,

so I spend my days praying. If Blanche could pray for my son and daughter, I would appreciate it very much. I will pray for the Marians and their staff.

— MB, Hackensack, New Jersey

'May you continue for years to come'

I read "Blanche storms heaven for you" in my recent *Marian Helper* magazine, and I'd dearly love to have her "job." I pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament daily. My family needs a lot of prayers.

Dear Blanche, may you continue your wonderful ministry for years to come. I hope you had a happy birthday on March 24, which is the same birthday as my first-born.

— MC, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

I am so grateful to all of you for your outpouring of love and support for Blanche and our ministry of prayer. If you are inspired to volunteer your time to pray with us, like Blanche, please email us at prayerline@marian.org. Please also consider making a contribution to help us keep this ministry running by visiting marian.org/give/prayerline or calling 1-800-462-7426. And please keep Blanche and the ministry in your prayers.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

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Share how you were inspired by Blanche Koprek and her work on the Prayerline on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MarianHelpers](https://www.facebook.com/MarianHelpers) or e-mail us at mailbox@marian.org.



Father Joseph's Bookshelf



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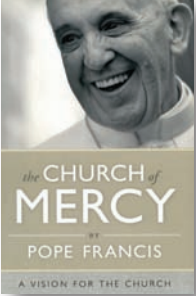
THE CHURCH OF MERCY

A VISION FOR THE CHURCH

By POPE FRANCIS

LOYOLA PRESS, 250 PP., \$16.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B26-TCOM**



Saint John Paul II was the Great Mercy Pope — but Pope Francis is sure giving him a run for his money, as *The Church of Mercy* makes clear.

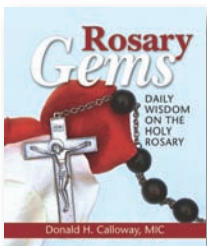
While we prepare for the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, this book offers a look at mercy from his perspective — what it means, why it's so important to him, and what mercy looks like in the life and ministry of the Church, as well as why he's calling us all to mercy right now. As Pope Francis explained to reporters on the plane on the way back from the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, "This time is a *kairos* [season; opportunity] of mercy. John Paul II had this intuition first, when he began with Faustina Kowalska [and] the Divine Mercy."

Pope Francis has offered us an abundance of teaching on how to seize this opportune moment of mercy. This collection of homilies, addresses, and other writings from Pope Francis' first year in the Chair of Peter serves as an examination of conscience for all of us in the Church, posing questions like:

- Are we living the Gospel message of mercy in our lives, in our parishes, and in the world?
- Are we willing to take on the smell of the sheep, leave the safety of our church buildings and homes, and go out into the highways and byways of the world to find the poor, the sick, the sinners, the lonely, and the forgotten?
- Are we full-time Christians, placing Jesus first in our lives and refusing to make idols out of success, material goods, or comfort?
- Do we choose whatever is good, true, or loving, even if those choices lead to significant sacrifices on our part?
- Do we listen to the Holy Spirit or to the spirit of the world?

In his characteristic popular style, Pope Francis points the way to living mercy in the modern world, with apostolic boldness, gentle love, and good humor.

Now is the time of mercy. Learn from this book how Pope Francis wants us to respond.



ROSARY GEMS

DAILY WISDOM ON THE HOLY ROSARY

By FR. DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC

MARIAN PRESS, 245 PP., \$12.95

PRODUCT CODES: **B26-RGEM**

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, places Our Lady at the center of his writing and evangelization efforts, firmly believing the classic Catholic maxim, "Of Mary, there is never enough." So it's no surprise that he followed up his *Marian Gems*, a collection of 365 quotes on the Blessed Virgin Mary from saints, popes, and other major Catholic figures, with *Rosary Gems*, a similar collection of quotes on the Church's favorite devotion to Our Lady: the Rosary.

"The more we realize that the Rosary has power, is easy to pray, and is most pleasing to heaven, and the more witnesses who verify this, the more we are encouraged to take up this Marian treasure with new fervor," explains Fr. Donald in his introduction. "Our times need the Rosary more than ever!"

Father Calloway draws great quotes from well-known Marian devotees such as St. John Paul II, St. Louis de Montfort, and Venerable Fulton Sheen, as well as lesser-known children of Mary, such as Blessed Bartolo Longo, former Satanist priest and founder of the great shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Italy, and Servant of God Fr. Joseph Kentenich, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement. *Rosary Gems* is designed to help inspire you and all the faithful to pray the Rosary daily, entrusting all your intentions to Jesus through Mary's merciful intercession.

With so many great testimonies to the power of the Rosary, both as an intercessory prayer and as a means of making swift, sure progress on the path toward holiness, this treasure trove of wisdom on the Rosary is sure to ignite your heart with love for Our Lady and this blessed devotion.



Ask a Marian

Why spend time in Adoration?

Q. What is the value of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?

A. Catholics believe that whenever Mass is celebrated, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Consecrated hosts that are not consumed at Mass are reserved in a tabernacle. In the early Church, the practice of Eucharistic reservation began so that Holy Communion could be brought to the sick and could be received by hermits as well. Respect was shown to the reserved Blessed Sacrament, and soon the practice began of praying in churches before the Real Presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324). The Sacrifice of the Mass should be the center of the life of every Catholic. Worship of our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass does not detract from the Mass in any way. In fact, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the power of the Mass. It is a thanksgiving for the Eucharist that we have received and a preparation for attending our next Mass.

Many parishes have instituted either Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration or Extended Adoration in hopes that it can eventually become Perpetual Adoration. These parishes report good fruits from the practice, including: increased Mass attendance and confessions, an increase in priestly and religious vocations, healings and conversions, increased participation in the life of the parish by adorers, and restored marriages.

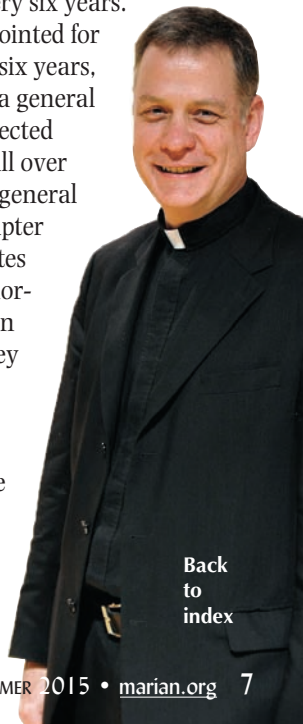
Since Jesus is the Good Shepherd, placing ourselves in His presence and opening ourselves to the graces that He wishes to pour out on us can only lead to our good. Coming before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament allows us to get to know Him, to make room for Him in our hearts, to give Him permission and the space to work in our lives. Some Catholics come before the Lord weekly, thus, letting the Lord guide their spiritual lives. I try to make a daily Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament. I find it to be incredibly helpful as I seek to grow in holiness.

Q. How are worldwide religious congregations like the Marian Fathers governed?

A. Like other religious communities, the Marians have a hierarchical structure of governance. The highest authority is the superior general who lives in Rome. He has a council of four Marians who assist him in his work. I have had the privilege of serving on this council here in Rome for the last 10 years. The Marians serve in 20 countries in the world. All Marians belong to either provinces or vicariates.

A province is made up of the Marians serving in one or more countries. The Marians currently have three provinces: one in the United States and Argentina; one in Brazil; and one in Poland that also includes Marians in England, Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. A province is run by a provincial superior, and he is assisted by four provincial councilors. There are also vicariates in Portugal, Lithuania, Ukraine, Latvia, Rwanda, Cameroon, and Asia (the Philippines). They are governed like provinces only on a smaller scale. Vicariates are either associated with a province or directly under the superior general. All Marians either live in or are associated with a religious house or residence. Each house has a local superior who is assisted by a council with three members.

The superior general and the provincial superiors are elected every six years. House superiors are appointed for three-year terms. Every six years, the Congregation holds a general chapter in Rome with elected delegates coming from all over the world. The superior general is elected during the chapter meeting, and the delegates possess the highest authority over the Congregation during this meeting. They have the power to make changes to the rule of life of the Marians, but some changes need to be approved by the Holy See in Rome.



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

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As he proclaims the Jubilee in St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday, April 11, 2015, the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis hands out copies of the papal bull to cardinals representing different parts of the world.

'Merciful like the Father'

Pope Francis proclaims an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

by Chris Sparks

Quite simply, Pope Francis has had enough. The Holy Father has had it. He's done. The world has not ceased to misbehave, so the earthly spiritual father of us all is going to turn this ship around and put into the port of God's mercy.

And how's he going to do it? By heeding the wisdom of St. John Paul II, who wrote in his book *Memory and Identity*, "[T]he limit imposed upon evil, of which man is both perpetrator and victim, is ultimately Divine Mercy."

On April 11, right before First Vespers of the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Holy Father stood before the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica, a special door that's cemented closed except during jubilee years, and officially released the papal bull *Misericordiae Vultus* (*The Face of Mercy*).

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy," Pope Francis says in opening his bull. In this light, "Merciful like the Father" is the motto he chose for the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. It comes from Luke 6:36, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

The bull (an important papal document) for the indiction (or declaration) of an extraordinary jubilee "constitutes the funda-

mental document for recognizing the spirit in which it is announced, and the intentions and the outcomes hoped for by the Pontiff, who invokes it for the Church," said the Vatican Information Service.

The document officially declared the upcoming extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will run from Dec. 8, 2015, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, to Nov. 20, 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King and the close of the liturgical year. The Catholic News Agency explained that a Jubilee Year is traditionally a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment merited by one's sins. Further, it is a year for reconciliation between enemies, conversion, and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession.

The Holy Father called for an array of concrete actions during this Holy Year dedicated to mercy:

- He asked for all to steep themselves in the Word of God through reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures. "In order to be capable of mercy," the Pope wrote, "we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God [by] rediscovering the value of silence in order

to meditate on the Word that comes to us.”

- The Holy Father spoke of the special place of “the practice of pilgrimage” in the Holy Year. Traditionally, many pilgrims travel to Rome during jubilee years to take advantage of the Holy Year indulgences to be gained by practices such as passing through the Holy Doors of the basilicas of Rome, which are only open during such jubilees.

- Holy Doors will be opened in the cathedrals, co-cathedrals, and particular local churches throughout the world. Pope Francis indicated that, at the decision of the local bishop, particular shrines with large numbers of pilgrims may

- also have a Holy Door. Rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, told pilgrims during his homily at the Vigil Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday that he intended to ask the local bishop, Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, for a Holy Door to be established at the National Shrine.

- “The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy,” especially by meditating on the passages from Sacred Scripture that help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father.

- The 24 Hours for the Lord initiative of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, designed to widen access to the Sacrament of Confession, is to be celebrated in every diocese throughout the Church on the Friday and Saturday preceding the fourth week of Lent in the Jubilee Year. In fact, Pope Francis first announced the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy during the opening of the 24 Hours for the Lord held in St. Peter’s Basilica on March 13, the second anniversary of his pontificate. Its theme? “God, rich in mercy.”

- Further emphasizing the importance of the Sacrament of Confession, Pope Francis said he would send out Missionaries of Mercy during Lent 2016 to preach on God’s mercy and forgive sins, even those sins usually reserved to the Holy See, “so that the breadth of their mandate

as confessors will be even clearer. They will be, above all, living signs of the Father’s readiness to welcome those in search of His pardon.” He called on dioceses to organize “missions to the people” to allow the faithful to be blessed by the ministry of these missionaries.

- “It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy” and perform them readily, the Holy Father said.

- Pope Francis called everyone to conversion, especially those involved in criminal organizations or who have enriched themselves through corruption, saying, “All one

needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church.”

- The Holy Father said he hoped the Jubilee Year of Mercy would foster an encounter with Judaism and Islam, “both of which consider mercy to be one of God’s most important attributes,” as



Here, the Holy Father hears someone’s confession. In his papal bull, he writes, “Let us never forget that to be confessors means to participate in the very mission of Jesus, to be a concrete sign of the constancy of divine love that pardons and saves.”

well as with “other noble religious traditions” so as to end “every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, driving out every form of violence and discrimination.”

In the papal bull, Pope Francis also offered a number of theological meditations, drawing from Sacred Scripture and St. John Paul II’s encyclical letter *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)* to lay out a profoundly powerful vision of God’s mercy. Sunday readings during Ordinary Time for the Holy Year will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, often referred to as “the Gospel of mercy,” which includes well-known parables of mercy such as the parable of the prodigal son (see Lk 15:1-32).

Let us all prepare to celebrate this extraordinary Year of Mercy in our hearts, our homes, our families, our communities, and our parishes through prayer, reading the Word of God, and performing works of mercy. And in upcoming issues of *Marian Helper*, the Marian Fathers will announce some initiatives to help you prepare for this time of mercy in the life of the Church.

Go to thedinivemercy.org/news/6281 to read a summary of the bull.

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African missions mark special anniversaries

by Chris Sparks

The Marians are hard at work in their African missions in Rwanda and Cameroon, and the good fruits are showing as they celebrate milestones in their ministries.

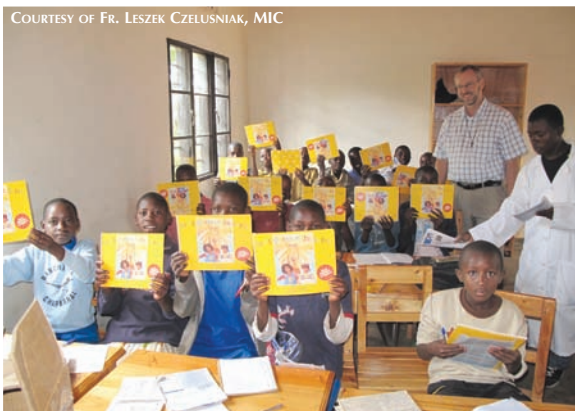
“People are growing in their faith and the Kingdom of God is spreading in the areas in which we work,” said the Very Rev. Andrzej Pakula, MIC, the Marians’ superior general.

In Rwanda, the Marians finished marking the 10th anniversary year of the groundbreaking for their CANA formation center at Kibeho, a small village in Rwanda that was the site of apparitions of Mary to schoolchildren in 1981-82, which received Church approval in 2001. The Marians in Kibeho serve at the request of the local bishop, offering solid formation in Marian devotion and the Catholic faith to the many pilgrims coming to their center and the apparition site. They also run a bakery and a school named after Marian Founder Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski.

Since opening its doors, the CANA formation center has become “a refuge for people searching for silence and prayer,” said Fr. Ryszard Kusy, MIC, who has served in the African missions since the late 1990s. “Just in 2014 alone, 100 priests took retreats at the CANA center. All the bishops of Rwanda and Burundi came. Groups of pilgrims came from the United States and Poland. Our center also hosted pilgrims from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.

“So our anniversary year was very busy for us,” concluded Fr. Kusy, “because we received almost 3,000 guests.”

Meanwhile, 2,000 miles away in Cameroon, April 18, 2015, marked the close of another 10th anniversary for the Marians. In the case of Cameroon, it marked 10 years



The Marians run the Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski Grammar School in Kibeho for more than 700 schoolchildren.

since the establishment of the Marian mission’s Regional Shrine of The Divine Mercy. During the anniversary year, on Oct. 26, 2014, the Marians took charge of a new parish under the patronage of the Great Mercy Pope, St. John Paul II. Father Christopher Pazio, MIC, was appointed pastor, and Fr. Cyril Augustine Bounoungou, MIC, was appointed his parochial vicar. Ordained on June 28, 2014, Fr. Cyril is the second Cameroonian ordained as a Marian priest.

In acknowledgment of the Marians’ close relationship with the late Holy Father, Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz — John Paul’s longtime personal secretary — contributed a relic of the sainted pontiff to the parish.

In spite of war, the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and other immense difficulties, the missions continue to grow. And for that, Fr. Pakula gives thanks. “It is amazing to see how God can work, even through suffering, death, and tragedy, to bring good out of everything,” he says. “His mercy endures forever!”

Father Pakula reports that six young priests have been ordained from Rwanda, Cameroon, and the Congo in recent years.

Please continue to keep the Marian missionaries in Africa in your prayers.

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► Slideshow of Marians’ mission in Cameroon. ► Slideshow of Marians’ mission in Rwanda.

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In the News: Marians' Divine Mercy Apostolates

Divine Mercy magnified for EADM

A new booklet on ministering to the sick and dying. Recent travels confirming the embrace of the Divine Mercy message. Pope Francis declaring an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Add it all up, and what do you get?

"We are in a mercy moment," said Dr. Bryan Thatcher, MD, founder and director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM). By "we," he means his own ministry and the world at large.

As to the world at large, the Holy Father's call for an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, beginning on Dec. 8, is a challenge that members of EADM are uniquely positioned to undertake. A worldwide apostolate of the Marians, EADM is redoubling its efforts to provide formation for the laity and promote works of mercy through its prayer cenacles.

"The Year of Mercy impels me to continue in a more determined and diligent way to spread the message of mercy at every opportunity," said Dr. Thatcher.

Among Dr. Thatcher's recent efforts is the new Marian Press title *At the Bedside of the Sick and Dying* (Product Code B26-PMBK), written with Marian Helper Kathleen Wabick. The booklet gives practical guidance to incorporate the Divine Mercy message and devotion into the care of sick and dying souls, especially by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at the bedside of the dying.

"There has been a tremendous response to the booklet," says Dr. Thatcher. "As the Lord told St. Faustina regarding the dying, '[T]hey have most need of trust, and have it the least'" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1777).

His recent globetrotting in support of the



"The Year of Mercy impels me to continue in a more determined and diligent way to spread the message of mercy at every opportunity," said Dr. Bryan Thatcher, MD, director of EADM.

thousands of EADM prayer cenacles has led him to conclude that "the response to EADM's work and proclamation of God's mercy has been unparalleled in my 20 years of apostolate."

Doctor Thatcher will be speaking in Emmitsburg, Maryland, July 17-19; Sugarland, Texas, Oct. 3; Allentown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 17; and at the Cleveland Clinic Healthcare conference Oct. 21-22.

New web series on Mary in May

A new web series and a revised edition of one of his books are on the docket for the man who leads the Marians' formation and research efforts in the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

Doctor Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, has recently released *The Papacy: God's Gift for All Christians* through Chartwell Press. The book is a revised edition of the work previously published by Marian Press as *Saint Peter Lives in Rome*.

The original book served as a capstone to Dr. Stackpole's conversion to the Catholic faith. Though he was drawn to the Catholic Church, his greatest stumbling block had been the doctrine of the papacy. *Saint Peter Lives in Rome* was the result of his critical, in-depth study of the Petrine ministry, a quest that helped him embrace that office as the Lord's will for all Christians.

Doctor Stackpole will also have a new web series on the Blessed Virgin Mary starting in May, Mary's month. The series will run through Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which will also be the start of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Called "Mary Lights the Way," the series will appear on thedivinemercy.org/jpii.

THE APOSTOLATES WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD DIVINE MERCY



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

For more information, call 1-866-895-3236 or visit thedivinemercy.org/ministries.



FELIX CARROLL

To honor David Came's legacy as their longtime executive editor, Provincial Superior the Very Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC (left), and Association Director Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, join him in looking over some of the many magazines and books that he has edited.

FAREWELL TO DAVID CAME

For Marian's' beloved executive editor, everything comes down to the Word

by Felix Carroll

On weeknights, a not-always-reliable early model Subaru was usually the last car remaining in the Marian Helpers Center parking lot. On many weekends, too, it was a frequent presence — often the only car in the lot.

Its owner, the always-reliable David Came, was busy inside quietly and skillfully steering an altogether different conveyance. David, who retires in June after serving more than 18 years as the Marian's' executive editor, has been the singular driver of an editorial department whose books, booklets, magazines (including *Marian Helper*), newsletters, pamphlets, and prayercards have been among the Marian's' most effective vehicles for spreading the *Divine Mercy* revelations of St. Faustina, devotion to *Mary Immaculate*, and prayer for the *Holy Souls in Purgatory*.

"He's the unsung hero of the *Divine Mercy* movement," says Dr. Robert Stackpole, author

of *Divine Mercy: A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI* and director of the *John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy*. "Multitudes of people — probably several million — have been blessed by what David Came has done over the years."

A stack of accomplishments

Under David's editorship, *Marian Press* published more than 75 books and booklets, including bestsellers by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Fr. George Kosicki, CSB. He oversaw the publication of dozens of pamphlets and prayercards and more than 650 issues of newsletters. He wrote the 2009 *Marian Press* title *Pope Benedict's Divine Mercy Mandate* and co-authored with Fr. Kosicki *Faustina, Saint for Our Times* and the Beatification Edition of *John Paul II: The Great Mercy Pope*.

This issue of *Marian Helper* magazine marks his 71st as editor — and his last. (And by the

way, he guided this magazine through a major redesign launched in 2001, which included giving it a new name, *Marian Helper*.)

With the mind of a cathedral and the heart of a country chapel, David can speak with authority and passion about the liturgy, recent popes, saints, and Scripture, and then deliver striking soliloquies on the defining characteristics of Belgian-style ale. He can write legendarily exhaustive memos one moment and break into

a Beatles' song the next. He can speak in perfect paragraphs explaining why *King Lear* is superior to *Hamlet* and how the megalomania of Herman Melville's Captain Ahab portends the devastating consequences of seeking vengeance on our own terms.

And on weekdays, when leading the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) over the intercom at the [3 o'clock hour](#) in the Marian Helpers Center, he was careful to give generous pause to employees to silently lift up their intentions to the Lord.

Faith as a family affair

Raised in Reno, Nevada, his was not an ordinary childhood. Monkeys and a flying squirrel were among his many pets. His mother, Nancy, incorporated four of her five children into her homespun Catholic

Charismatic Renewal ministry. She founded prayer groups and led retreats with David's brother Chad. In earlier years, she would also lead the family after dinner every evening in praying the [Rosary](#).

As a member of the Legion of Mary in her local parish, Nancy would go door-to-door with a couple of her children in tow, inviting fallen-away Catholics to come back to Mass. Doors were slammed in their faces. When the family got involved in the renewal, Nancy's family and her prayer group would sing at airports and bus stations and even outside the casinos in downtown Reno. She and Chad would lead the singing with their guitars. Named the Parable Players, Nancy's group soon began to perform plays, sing, and witness at orphanages, nursing homes, and prisons.

Nancy's audacity and perseverance — modeled on the steadfast risk-takers of the

early Church — nearly led to an early martyrdom for David's sister Katie.

During a performance of the Parable Players on April 19, 1981, at the Nevada State Maximum Security Prison for Men in Carson City, two inmates pulled out knives, with one of them holding Katie at knifepoint. David's mother persuaded the inmates to release Katie and take her instead. She then managed, after a standoff of several hours, to

emerge unscathed, with the two inmates claiming they had experienced conversions through the witness of the group.

"She was a very important figure in my life," says David. Though gentler in approach, David would be indelibly marked with an unflagging eagerness to dedicate his life in the service of God's Kingdom. He would proclaim himself "150 percent Catholic."

Making Divine Mercy known

David earned a bachelor's degree in English literature with a minor in journalism from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He spent 18 years from 1973 to 1991 living and at times working as a member of the Word of God, an

ecumenical, charismatic community, both in Michigan and in Belgium, where he helped start a sister community. His advocacy for Christian unity in faith and action would be cemented. Through the Word of God community, he met a pretty Lutheran girl named Helen. They married in 1986. Helen has since converted to Catholicism.

David wrote for *The Ann Arbor News* and served as a book editor for Servant Publications before coming to the Marians in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in 1995.

He was hired under the directorship of none other than [Fr. Seraphim Michalenko](#), MIC, world-renowned expert in the Divine Mercy message and spirituality of St. Faustina. Publishers of the [Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska](#), the Marians were still in the nascent days of their efforts to spread [St. Faustina's Divine Mercy revelations](#). After



During his early years with the Marians, David Came enjoyed spending time with his wife, Helen, and their three children on Eden Hill.

► David Came reflects on milestones.

seeing the Divine Mercy Image in a religious goods store and then reading passages in his mother's copy of the *Diary* on a visit back to Reno, David recognized in the Divine Mercy message a special opportunity to serve the Lord and His Church.

"The Divine Mercy Image really tugged at my heart, particularly the words on the image, 'Jesus, I trust in You!' It nourished the same roots in my soul that had been nourished by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal — the belief that we are called to more than a 'formal' faith, that it all comes down to our personal trust in the Lord Jesus," says David.

One of the happiest moments of his career, says David, was the publication of the Summer 2000 issue of *Marian Helper* magazine (then known as *The BULLETIN*). The cover story was Pope John Paul II's canonization of St. Faustina. Leading up to the canonization, David in the magazine had helped lead a petition drive asking the Holy Father to declare Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast of the Church. Thousands of people signed it, and the Marians sent box after box of signatures to Rome. In a surprise announcement during the canonization, the Holy Father did, indeed, follow suit, thereby fulfilling the Lord's request made



The Marians sent David and Helen Came to the beatification of John Paul II on May 1, 2011, in St. Peter's Square. Here, the Cames are delighted to be seated close to the front of St. Peter's at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the beatification, which was celebrated on May 2, 2011.

explain him to the core. From Isaiah 41:13: "For I am the Lord, your God, who grasps your right hand; It is I who say to you, Do not fear, I will help you." From Romans 8:18: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."

Consummately attentive to the sufferings of others, David would often be heard in the hallways of the Marian Helpers Center saying, "I'll pray for you and your family." You knew he meant it.

He and Helen have three grown children and one grandson. They've endured their own share of sufferings. While serving in Afghanistan as an Army medic, their son Matthew was shot in a firefight in 2010. By the grace of God, he experienced a full recovery.

As for David, retiring at the age of 60 was not how he planned it. In early 2011, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a progres-

through St. Faustina.

"I consider myself privileged and humbled by the fact that, while I was here, these were the glory days for Divine Mercy, and I could make a contribution," David says.

David — to the core

Two scriptural passages hung on David's office walls in Stockbridge that

'He will be greatly missed'

The Marians share thoughts about David Came:

FATHER JOE ROESCH, MIC Vicar general of the Marians

David Came is an extraordinary human being. He is a man of faith, a family man, a great writer, and a very knowledgeable Catholic. He has accepted the cross of his sufferings with Parkinson's disease with grace. He gives us all a beautiful example through his humble acceptance of the will of God. He has always improved my writing in my columns through his editorial skills, his knowledge, and his creativity. He will be missed at the Marian Helpers Center, but we are always united spiritually in the same common mission. He will always be in my thoughts and prayers.



FATHER KAZ CHWALEK, MIC Provincial superior of the Marians in the United States and Argentina

David was able to combine profound spirituality and theological training with journalism and has, in the process, reached innumerable readers. He understood the healing component of the message of Divine Mercy and wanted everyone to accept it, be enriched by it, and find salvation. For David, this work was his vocation. He embraced the Marian mission in its totality. He was a Marian at heart, as far as our charism is concerned. The Lord has given him a special cross to bear with Parkinson's, and we know he is offering his suffering up as a form of prayer for our mission. We are very grateful for him. We will greatly miss him.



sive disorder of the nervous system. Once simple tasks — walking, shaving, tying his shoes, and using his computer at work — have become increasingly difficult.

Praying for his physical healing, the Marians flew David and Helen to Rome in 2011 for the beatification of David's hero John Paul II. The late Holy Father had suffered unto death from Parkinson's. His beatification miracle concerned the healing from Parkinson's disease of French nun Marie Simon-Pierre.

David says that, though the beatification pilgrimage did not lead to his physical healing, he experienced special graces of consolation through Sr. Simon-Pierre's witness and the beatification homily of Pope Benedict XVI.

"It's been an inspiration to me to remember how John Paul II stretched his arms out on the cross of his Parkinson's disease," David says. "He remained faithful to the end, and that's what I pray to be able to do: to be able to stay faithful to the mission of advancing the Kingdom of God."

In his retirement, David plans to finish editing Fr. Kosicki's book on spiritual warfare and St. Faustina. He wants to write a book about his "crazy family." He wants to stay as healthy as possible for as long as possible. The Comes hope to move to Florida later this year.

"Maybe he'll rest a little more," says Helen, with a laugh. "Whatever the Lord has planned, we don't doubt that Dave will meet it head on with the words 'Jesus, I trust in You' in his heart."

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Marians announce new line-up

Upon David Came's retirement, the Marians named Felix Carroll executive editor. He will serve as editor of *Marian Helper* magazine. Chris Sparks has taken over as editor for Marian Press books.

Felix has been a staffer in the Marians' Editorial Department since 2005. He has served as the editor of thedivinemercy.org and marian.org since 2007. Before coming to the Marians, he was a newspaper journalist and was twice named Writer of the Year by the New York Press Association. He is the author of the book Loved, Lost, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversion Stories (Marian Press, 2013). He continues to serve as the Marians' web editor and manager of the Marians' Video Department.

Chris Sparks has been a member of the Editorial Department for two years, serving as assistant editor of *Marian Helper* magazine, editor of the Thirteenth of the Month Club newsletter, and writer for thedivinemercy.org and marian.org. He was the principal editor of the English-language edition of Faustina: The Mystic and Her Message (Marian Press, 2014).

Chris earned a BA in philosophy and history from Gonzaga University and an MA in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has written for a number of publications, including *Lay Witness*, *Franciscan Way*, and *Catholic Exchange*.

In addition to overseeing the Marians' book publishing, he will continue serving as assistant editor and writer for *Marian Helper*, editor of the *Thirteenth of the Month Club*, and writer for the Marians' websites.

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FATHER MICHAEL GAITLEY, MIC Director of Marian evangelization

David Came is one of the most important people in my life. For one thing, he basically taught me how to write. When I submitted the manuscript for my first book, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, the grammar was a mess. As editor of Marian Press, Dave spent countless hours not only correcting my errors but also helping me learn the rules of grammar. His efforts and encouragement gave me a confidence in writing that has led to six more books. And with each one of those books, Dave treated it as if it were his own, staying late at the office and coming in on weekends to proofread and offer invaluable suggestions. And that's how he was with all of his work. He put his whole self into it and humbly labored for God's glory harder than nearly everyone I know. His example of hard work, humility, kindness, and joy in God's service has deeply impacted my life. I will always be extremely grateful to David Came, my friend and mentor. May God richly bless and reward him and, I pray, heal him.



FATHER CHRIS ALAR, MIC Director of the Association of Marian Helpers

As an editor, David has always been able to bring out the best in people. His work ethic is incredible. Seeing a man struggling like he is with Parkinson's, I would expect so much less, but instead he gave so much more than we could expect from the healthiest of employees. So many nights I would return to the Marian Helpers Center after dinner and see him still at work. I would say, "Dave, go home." He has always put the good of the Marians and Marian Helpers ahead of himself. I am grateful to God for him. And he's not pleased that he's the subject of our cover story, but we insisted.



'BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER'



How the Marians are bringing Our Lady home to you

by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

“It’s not a painting. It’s a presence.” These thoughts immediately entered my mind as I experienced an extremely rare and precious gift, a gift that’s usually just reserved for popes and prelates, a gift that hadn’t been given in more than four years — the gift of being able to enter the *boveda*, the vault containing the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

As I stood in the *boveda* before that mysterious motherly presence, another thought came to mind, “What am *I* doing here?”

Good question. Here’s the background.

Part of the mission of my community, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, is “to serve the Church where the need is greatest.” Well, some of the greatest pastoral needs in the Church in the United States are among Spanish-speaking Catholics. Because of this fact and thanks to a very generous Marian Helper, my community decided to print *one million Spanish copies* of our popular Marian book, *33 Days to Morning Glory* — and offer them for free. Amazingly, all one million copies were then spoken for in just 10 days!

Well, the week after we announced the giveaway, I received a surprising phone call from a highly connected Mexican man named Noel who had been deeply touched by our gesture. He said, “I think Our Lady wants you to come see her.” Then, he invited me to Mexico City to see the actual image of Our Lady of Guadalupe up close — and I do mean *close*.

Our Lady up close

The tens of millions of pilgrims who visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe every year have to behold Our Mother from a distance of at least 30 yards. Well, thanks to Noel’s invitation, I got so close that I could have touched her. But I didn’t reach out to her, at least not at first.

When I first entered the *boveda*, as I drew so close to an



© 2000, NEN






image that hundreds of millions of people have longed to touch, I was overwhelmed by a feeling of unworthiness: “*What am I doing here? I’m just an American priest with a pitiful devotion to Our Lady.*” I used the words “pitiful devotion” because, earlier in the day, I’d been deeply moved by the faith and piety of the countless Mexican pilgrims I’d seen praying in the Basilica, which put me to shame. I thought to myself as I stood in the *boveda*, “They would all appreciate this a thousand times more than me. I don’t deserve this!”

Along with the profound feeling of unworthiness, I was also overwhelmed with amazement. Seeing the image up close in that little room was not like looking at a painting. Rather, it felt like being before a presence. It’s like the feeling you get when you step into a small adoration chapel where the Eucharist is exposed in the monstrance. The presence is so strong, it fills the whole room. That’s how it felt with the actual image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She was palpably present.

‘She’s alive!’

And there was something else about that image of Our Lady: She looked different from so many other reproductions I’d seen of her. Whereas, all the other images I’d seen of her were dull and grainy, this image was radiant and clear, and the colors were so vibrant. It really looked like she was alive!

As I knelt before this amazing motherly presence, I opened my heart in prayer, “Mary, millions upon millions of your children would appreciate this so much more than me. So please don’t let this just be a gift for me but for them.” I repeated that prayer over and over, and I felt that it pleased her. However, I didn’t know what this prayer would mean until a few days later when I was introduced to Kurt and Maria Esther.

Maria Esther and her son, Kurt, own the rights to the highest quality digital image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the world, thanks to Maria Esther’s late husband, Ludwig.

German by blood but raised in Mexico, Ludwig was one of the best technical photographers in the whole country. Known for his attention to detail and precision in capturing color and quality, he was an easy choice when the Catholic Church in Mexico sought a photographer who could take the highest quality official image of the country’s patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

One day, as he was taking these official photos in the *boveda*, Ludwig wanted to get a close up of Our Lady’s face. Standing on a ladder, he zoomed in with his camera and suddenly became so startled that he just about fell off the ladder as he began exclaiming, “She’s alive! She’s alive!”

A motherly presence for your home

This experience of Our Lady’s presence transformed Ludwig’s life, a change that his whole family recognized. Previously, he had been a rather lukewarm Catholic. Afterward, however, he was on fire with love for Jesus and Mary, and he spread the image of Our Lady throughout all of Mexico, often giving it away for free. He even received a special blessing from Pope John Paul II for the archives of the images, which are registered by the country of Mexico and are endorsed by Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City.

Ludwig passed away in July of 2011, and his family has entrusted

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A death ordained by heaven



John Paul II died in the arms of Mercy, Mary

Excerpted from *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

When I was in the seminary, Pope John Paul II was one of my biggest inspirations and role models. Pictures of him covered my walls, his books lined my shelves, and the story of his life often occupied my thoughts. It's that latter part, his remarkable life, that most captivated me. Let me put it this way: I never got tired of reading the latest John Paul biography, and even back then, I was convinced that his story was probably the second greatest story ever told. But there was just one problem: The story wasn't over, and this caused me a bit of distress.

When I would reflect on the amazing life of John Paul II, I'd think to myself, "There can be no fitting end to such an amazing life. No matter what happens, it's going to be anti-climactic."

Well, when April 2, 2005, rolled around, and John Paul the Great breathed his last, it was the most beautiful, fitting, and perfect ending to his amazing life that I ever could have imagined ... almost.

What do I mean by "almost"? I mean that April 2, 2005, was the day before Divine Mercy Sunday. He was so close! Why couldn't he have held on for just one more day? If he'd have died on Divine Mercy Sunday, then it would have been the perfect ending! It truly would have been the second greatest story ever. But the ending ruined it. So, of course, I got depressed — but not for long. I soon learned that it was the perfect ending. Let me explain.



AGÊNCIA BRASIL

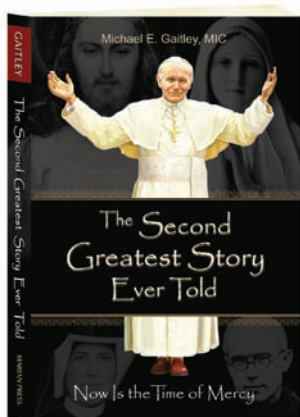
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger presides at Pope John Paul II's funeral in 2005. In 2008, as Pope Benedict XVI, he pointed out how the date of John Paul's death combined his Divine Mercy and Fatima legacies.

John Paul II had a longtime personal secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, who was in the room with the Pope during his final hours. Dziwisz reports that on the night of April 2, as John Paul was nearing his death, he, Dziwisz, suddenly felt a strong imperative in his heart, telling him to celebrate Mass right away. Obediently, Dziwisz began to set up for Mass right then and there in John Paul's room, by his bedside.

As he was setting up for Mass, Dziwisz realized that it was well after sundown on a

Saturday, and so he set up the vigil Mass for the Sunday, which, of course, was the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Dziwisz celebrated the Mass as the Pope was going in and out of consciousness. At the time of Communion, John Paul was able to receive the Eucharist, doing so through a droplet of the Precious Blood. Less than half an hour after receiving the Lord, John Paul went home to his eternal reward. As Pope Benedict XVI would later describe it, John Paul went to the Father “in the arms of mercy.”

Wow. Of all the days for John Paul to go, what better day than Divine Mercy Sunday? That was the very feast that he himself had established during the Great Jubilee Year, a year of mercy, an event that led him to say, “Today is the happiest day of my life.” But maybe that statement was no longer accurate. I say this because I believe April 2, 2005, became the happiest day of all. I mean, John Paul surely realized what was happening. As he was slipping into eternity on that great day, he knew that God Himself was confirming him in Divine Mercy, confirming his life as a witness to Divine Mercy, confirming him as a great prophet of mercy for our time. I can’t imagine the inner joy John Paul must have felt as he received his last Eucharist at



MARIAN PRESS

Visit shopmercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426 to order *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* (B26-SGSBK). The price is \$14.95.

But there’s still more to John Paul’s death when it comes to Fatima. As Pope Benedict XVI pointed out in his *Regina Caeli* message on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2008:

In the evening of the unforgettable Saturday, April 2, 2005, when [Pope John Paul II] closed his eyes on the world, it was precisely the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter, and many people noted the rare coincidence that combined the Marian dimension — the first Saturday of the month — and the dimension of Divine Mercy.

So John Paul II didn’t just die in the arms of Divine Mercy; he died in the arms of Our Lady as well. MH

GUADALUPE

Continued from page 17

their image of Our Lady to the Marian Fathers, who have the exclusive rights to print and distribute it in the U.S. and Canada. Working with one of our partners in ministry, we’re embracing Ludwig’s mission of getting this highest quality image of Our Lady out to everyone (see [page 21](#) to order).

Of course, we are overjoyed to share this amazing image first with you, our Marian Helpers. But remember, it’s not just an image — it’s a presence, a presence that you can now bring into your home. As Jesus from the Cross said to the beloved disciple, now He says to you, “Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:27). MH



The late Ludwig with his family Maria Esther, Maria, and Kurt stand before the official image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is being offered exclusively by the Marians in the U.S. and Canada. Working with the image changed Ludwig’s life.

Father Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, a best-selling author and popular conference speaker, is director of Evangelization for the Marians.



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MARIE ROMAGNANO

In describing the state of the Church, Cardinal Timothy Dolan says, “The Church is always healthy and always sick — because her members are. The Church is always healthy when we tap into the mercy of God.”

A SHARE IN THE TRIUMPH OF MERCY

‘The Lord’s victory is ours as well,’ says Cardinal Dolan

Interview by Felix Carroll

The ever-jovial, ever-magnetic Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, served as principal celebrant for the Solemn Liturgy on *Divine Mercy Sunday*, April 12, at the *National Shrine of The Divine Mercy* (see story on page 23). Before Mass, he sat down with us for an interview:

Pope Francis has just declared the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. So what do you think about that?

Year of Mercy — it will be magnificent. See what’s happened? This beautiful [Divine Mercy] devotion has captivated the world. We have St. John Paul II, the great apostle of Divine Mercy, and now Pope Francis, who is a troubadour of mercy. It’s the word he most uses.

Why this emphasis on mercy? Why now?

We’ve got two extremes in the world today. Either those who feel that they’re so bad that they’re outside the realm of God’s mercy — that’s called “despair,” which is a terrible curse. We are never beyond the scope of His mercy, and the only limit on the Lord’s mercy is our reluctance to trust in it and ask for it,

never in His hesitancy to give it. Or you have those who feel they don’t need [God’s mercy] ... they don’t think God deserves them. The Year of Mercy is an opportunity to address both extremes.

What, specifically, do you intend to emphasize with your own flock?

The Year of Mercy is a challenge to us all to be the face of Christ in the world, particularly to those who disparage the Church and those most in need of hope. One of the things we have to admit is that the members of the Church don’t always “show” Jesus — show mercy, show joy. This is why we have to turn to Divine Mercy. Our sins knock us down and drag us out, and Satan loves that. [Also] the Year of Mercy will be a great classroom for us to be able to teach — to place a real stress on prayer and to encourage a return to the *Sacrament of Penance*. Pope Francis speaks about that constantly. Pope John Paul II talked about the *Eucharist* so often. Pope Benedict XVI spoke about *Baptism* so often. Pope Francis speaks of the *Sacrament of Penance* so often.

You're about to celebrate Mass with some 15,000 people, many of whom have been deeply touched by the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina. To what extent have those revelations affected your own spirituality?

I have a tremendous devotion to the Sacred Heart, and as I look at the beautiful Divine Mercy devotion, it reminds me of a contemporary version. Faustina is the new Margaret Mary Alacoque. It's almost as if Jesus is saying, "Every once in a while, I have to remind My people of My mercy." As a "spectator" of the Divine Mercy [message and] devotion, I rejoice in its fruits because it's been the source of such blessing in the Church. I've only come to be inspired by it from a distance as I see people whose lives have been changed. I want it to become a part of my life.

How would you describe the state of the Catholic Church now in the United States?

The Church is always healthy and always sick — because her members are. The Church

'My Jesus, mercy'

From Cardinal Dolan's Divine Mercy Sunday homily:

My brothers and sisters, the key to discipleship, the key to holiness, the key to friendship with Jesus, which is the goal of life both here and in eternity, is to admit that we are sinners and to simply say over and over again these words: "My Jesus, mercy. My Jesus, mercy. My Jesus, mercy." When we say that, He loves it, for two reasons: for us acknowledging that He can give us mercy — that's faith; and secondly, that we are acknowledging that we need it — that's humility.

is always healthy when we tap into the mercy of God. The Church is always healthy when we're faithful to God's Word. It's the great paradox. As St. Augustine said, the Church is healthy when she admits she's sick, right? Because the best path to health is to admit we need the medicine that only God's grace and mercy can provide. It's like the beginning of *A Tale of Two Cities*: It's the best of times, the worst of times. And it's always been that way, right? ... Look at the Acts of the Apostles. Good Lord, that was the best of times, that was the worst of times. Here you have people who were only weeks [past] the Resurrection of Jesus, and the Church is already

in trouble. The Church is already facing challenges. The Church is already facing persecution. We shouldn't be surprised. It's the same now as it was back then, right? But meanwhile, the other thing that's the same is that the Lord's victory in the Resurrection — a triumph of love over hate, mercy over sin — is our victory as well. We all have a share in that triumph.

MH

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For pilgrims, home is where His Heart is

by Felix Carroll

Hurting, in need of healing, giving thanks to God, finding a spiritual home: These are some of the reasons why so many people visit the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#) in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. All of them have a story to tell. With the busy [pilgrimage season](#) now underway, meet two such pilgrims.

From the day they met back in 1992, Jean and Robert Heim had so much in common. Both were fallen-away Catholics. Both served their country during the Vietnam War. That war inflicted an emotional toll on both of them. Both sought help through the Veterans Administration. They had the same nurse. Her name was Mary Kay.

"I told her one day I would like to meet someone — someone to have a dinner with once in awhile, to be friends with," recalls Jean. Mary Kay gave Jean the phone number of Robert, who had suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), an anxiety disorder caused by his war experience.

Jean and Robert became fast friends, then practicing Catholics, then devotees of [Divine Mercy](#), then, nearly five years ago, husband and wife.

Really, this is a story about coming home. It turns out *home* wasn't Worcester, Massachusetts, where she was from, or Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was from. Home, they learned, was the Catholic Church. They only wish they'd come home sooner.

Jean was a Navy nurse during the Vietnam War, caring for injured servicemen in a military base in Japan. "When I got out of the service, I never felt quite right," Jean says. Robert, who was also a Korean War vet, served in Vietnam with the Air Force



Robert and Jean Heim of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, know war, and they know peace. They visit the Shrine often.

for seven violent months in 1965. When he returned home, he, too, felt lost.

"PTSD is studied very closely now," Jean says, "but at the time, the VA wasn't helping him."

He eventually got the help he needed through the nurse, Mary Kay. And he met a soul mate in Jean. Seven years ago, they

returned to the Church. "I was raised by devout Catholics," Jean says, "and I'm sure it was my parents' prayers that brought me back."

She also began praying the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#) each day. She says she soon felt Christ pulling her toward the [Sacrament of Reconciliation](#).

"I hadn't been to confession in years," says Jean, "and I was denying myself a source of grace. I think recognizing God's mercy in the confessional is what really drew me back to my faith."

Robert and Jean became frequent Shrine visitors — monthly penitents, in fact.

"We like to sometimes just sit in the Shrine and *be*," says Jean.

They have two particular intentions they pray for while they're here. The first is that others come to realize the graces Christ gives to trusting souls. The second is for the men and women in the military serving overseas — that they be welcomed home.

As for Jean and Robert, they've found "home" in the Church and a "second home" in the Shrine.

"There's just something about when you turn at the corner on Main Street in Stockbridge and head up the hill to the Shrine," says Jean.

"I just immediately feel at peace. It's so good," says Robert.

Welcome home, Robert and Jean Heim! **MH**

Cardinal Dolan celebrates Mercy Sunday at Shrine

Coming from at least nine different states and two Canadian provinces, more than 15,000 pilgrims celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy under sunny skies. The Archbishop of New York, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, was the principal celebrant at the 1 p.m. Solemn Liturgy, which was broadcast around the world on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Bishop of the Albany Diocese, the Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger was the principal concelebrant for the liturgy; a number of Marian priests were among the concelebrants. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the



Timothy Cardinal Dolan, principal celebrant on Divine Mercy Sunday, greets some of the pilgrims at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

live Divine Mercy Sunday broadcast that the Marians air in collaboration with EWTN. The broadcast was available to over 238 million television households in more than 140 countries and territories.

This year's Divine Mercy Sunday celebration was filled with a special significance as pilgrims

and priests alike spoke about and reflected upon the papal bull Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy). Released by Pope Francis on Saturday, April 11, the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, the document convoked the upcoming extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (see our news feature on page 8).

Visit thedivinemercy.org/ewtn for more on Divine Mercy Sunday at the Shrine.

Join Shrine's annual celebration of Latino culture Aug. 8

On Saturday, Aug. 8, the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy's Encuentro Latino will feature the testimony of Gloria Polo, a Colombian woman who had a tremendous conversion after being struck by lightning and enduring a near death experience.

The annual family-friendly celebration of Latino culture and the Catholic faith involves spiritual presentations, a Rosary procession, children's activities, music, and a Holy Mass celebrated at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine, followed by the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Benediction. Encuentro Latino is the Shrine's largest event of the summer and typically draws around 6,000 people to Eden Hill.

A special highlight of the day includes the

annual raffle of a statue of Our Lady.

"During the day, the statue is at the information tent," said Marcela Murillo, one of the organizers of the event and editor of the Marian Fathers' Spanish-language publication Fuente de Misericordia. "Every single person that comes to the tent touches the statue. Some kiss it.

"We use it for the Rosary procession led by the children, who place the statue in front of the altar for the Mass. The celebrant picks the winner after Mass," she said.

To learn more about Encuentro Latino, visit marian.org/encuentrolatino or call 1-800-462-7426, ext. 3. Please visit thedivinemercy.org/shrine or call (413) 298-3931 for up-to-date information on summer and fall Shrine events.

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Encuentro Latino
2015



FR. JIM MCCORMACK, MIC

Brother Michael Baker, MIC (right), shares a meal with a novice and a seminarian. A goal of formation is developing a sense of community with fellow Marians at such times as meals, prayer, and recreation.

THE MAKING OF A MARIAN

How a man is formed to live and serve as a Marian

by Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC

How does a man become a Marian? Through formation. Consider this analogy: When a rough piece of wood is shaped into a table, the “form” of the table is conceived in the mind of the carpenter. When he is done, it is realized *in* the wooden table.

Similarly for us, we are “formed” or perhaps “in-formed” when some content — knowledge, attitudes, virtues, etc. — that we didn’t already have is put into us. For instance, we might think of how our parents educated us *in* the Catholic faith, or of how a dedicated teacher helped us understand a difficult subject.

As we celebrate 2015 as the Year for Consecrated Life, it’s an opportune time to look at the formation process in religious communities like my own, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Our focus will be on “initial formation,” which is the time prior to perpetual vows and, for priests, priestly ordination. This initial formation has several stages of varying duration: postulancy, novitiate, and post-novitiate.

Testing the waters

After being accepted into the Marians, students who have had little exposure to the religious life undergo a yearlong postulancy at our Steubenville House of Studies in Ohio. For those with previous experience, either in

another community or a priestly discernment program, postulancy lasts about a month.

Postulants live with a Marian community but are responsible for their own expenses. Classes on the Marian way of life give a general introduction without going too in-depth. Postulants may take some classes at Franciscan University of Steubenville in philosophy or another discipline.

Getting to know the Marians

In-depth formation begins with the novitiate at our Scholasticate in Washington, D.C., and continues in the post-novitiate years of temporary profession. The areas of formation are roughly divided into these areas.

Marian charism. The most significant study of the Marian identity happens during the novitiate, which is an intense time of prayer and study. Our charism centers around the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, namely: spreading devotion to Our Lady, especially under the title of the Immaculate Conception; praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory in order that they may be purified like the Immaculate Conception; serving the Church where the need is greatest in order that souls here on earth may grow in resembling Our Lady’s virtues and purity of heart; and finally, the specific apostolic work of spreading the message of Divine Mercy,

of which Our Lady was the greatest recipient, being preserved free from all stain of sin from the moment of her conception.

Human formation. The yearlong novitiate is also a time of intense human formation. Novices seek to know themselves (listen to their hearts) through prayer and discernment, to cast off the “old man” (a metaphor for vices and disordered affections), and to put on the “new man” of virtue and detachment.

Looking back at his time in the novitiate, Br. Michael Baker, MIC, said, “I have to say that the greatest grace I received was that the Lord began to show me the real me. He began stripping me of all of the many masks that I had put on over the years, and began tearing down the walls that I had built up around my heart. He began a process in me that is still a work in progress: making me into the man (and, God willing, the saint) that He created me to be.”

Spiritual formation. To be a Marian means being a contemplative in action, following the example and teaching of the Marian Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis. Building upon their human formation, novices also seek to develop a life of deep prayer and meditation. To that end, they make an eight-day Ignatian retreat.

By the end of novitiate, the novices will



Deacon Allen Alexander, MIC (center), and Br. Michael Baker, MIC, assist Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC, during Mass, the center of their spiritual life.

know what it means to live as a Marian. Thus, they will be prepared to profess for the first time the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. This is called a “temporary profession,” and it must be renewed annually.

Formed to serve as a priest or brother

Although the novitiate touches upon intellectual and pastoral formation, these areas are given an even greater emphasis in the post-novitiate years of formation, especially for those who are studying for the priesthood.

Intellectual formation. Candidates for the priesthood are now called seminarians. In this stage, they focus on philosophical and theological studies that will prepare them for their future priestly ministry. Candidates for the permanent brotherhood may take some phi-

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Graces Received

'She got called back to work'

'Coworker had a complete change in attitude'

I would like to tell you about how my daughter has received several graces through the intercession of Blessed George.

I get many prayercards in the mail. I often go through them and leave them out in our church. I was doing that when I came across one for Blessed George. My daughter was having a hard time at work with a coworker, so I was inspired to keep the Blessed George prayercard and ask him for his intercession on my daughter's behalf. I would ask Blessed George for his help daily.

About two weeks later, I asked about the coworker, and my daughter said the woman had a complete change in attitude and things were much better at work. I thanked Blessed George because I believed it was through his intercession that this had happened.

A few months later, my daughter was let go from work. She was very stressed because she needed her salary to pay her bills. I turned to Blessed George again, and soon she got word that she was approved for unemployment benefits that would be enough to pay the bills.

Meanwhile, I continued to appeal to Blessed George about her job situation. Then, a week before her benefits were to run out, she got a call back to work.

— VS, Mableton, Georgia

Teenage son has a change of heart

I wanted to write to tell you about the intercession of Blessed George for my son.



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

I always have a Blessed George prayercard under my pillow and ask for his intercession every night.

This particular time, I asked for his intercession with my son. It is not easy to raise a teenage son alone. Last November, my son asked me if he could go for three days to an event in another city with his girlfriend. I was certainly not comfortable with this plan. He told me that he was a senior in high school with a part-time job to pay for the trip, so he was not going to listen to my objections.

I asked for Blessed George's help every night, and the week before his trip, he told me that he

had texted his girlfriend to tell her he wasn't going. He was going to focus on schoolwork (which is another area I need Blessed George to intercede for) and work at his part-time job instead. I said nothing, but I silently thanked Blessed George for his assistance.

I will continue to ask for Blessed George's help that my son understands the importance of his schooling and realizes that if he is irresponsible, he will fail. He is currently failing his U.S. History class and is close to failing his English and American Government classes.

— MR, Roseville, California

For a Blessed George prayercard (B26-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. Email: graces@marian.org.

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Celebrate St. Faustina's feast at the Shrine

As part of a pilgrimage to North American shrines, join Fr. Joseph, MIC (Fr. Chris Alar, MIC), Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and Bob and Maureen Digan for a conference on Oct. 5, St. Faustina's feast day, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. For more information, contact Peter at (413) 298-1303.

Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

Claire Barbato has been coming to Eden Hill for many years. She says it's where she goes when she needs to find some peace in her life. When her grandson passed away, she again turned to Eden Hill for some solace.

Eden Hill is one of my favorite spots in the world. I go there when I need some peace within my heart. I just walk the grounds, and I become very peaceful. I've also been going there for a long time. The first Divine Mercy Sunday I attended there, I don't think more than 20 people came. The last time I attended Divine Mercy Sunday on Eden Hill was in 2013. There were more than 20,000 people in attendance. It reinforced the power of God's mercy for me.

So when my grandson passed away, I chose to visit Eden Hill. As I was walking the grounds, I saw the Shrine of the Holy Innocents and went in. I saw all the beautiful tiles. I decided right then to create a green tile as a memorial for Matteo. The reason I chose green is because it is the color for kidney disease awareness (similar to pink being for breast cancer awareness). He was born without any kidney function.

When my daughter-in-law was 12-weeks pregnant, the doctors did an ultrasound, and it was determined that the baby didn't have blood flow to one kidney. They told my son and daughter-in-law that the baby would probably be born with only one kidney. We knew it could present some difficulties, but we were prepared to deal with it. At 16 weeks, another ultrasound was performed and the doctors diagnosed that there were cysts that interfered with normal kidney function. This would cause a cascade of other health issues. My son and daughter-in-law were counseled to get an abortion, but they could not do this. Their faith is phenomenal.

The baby was due to be born March 3, but he was born on Jan. 9. He was put on a



Three-year-old Tano Barbato touches the tile at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents that honors his younger brother, Matteo, who died two months after being born.

respirator at first, but the doctors were able to take him off it because he was breathing very well on his own.

Then, when "Matty" was a couple of days old, he had surgery to implant a catheter for dialysis. The dialysis was hit and miss. It worked, and then it didn't work. He had a couple strokes,

and the dialysis was putting more fluid in than it was taking out, so his breathing became more and more labored. Finally, the doctors said there were no good options left for treatment. "Matty" died two months after being born.

My son, daughter-in-law, and my other grandson were coming to visit, so I surprised them with the tile. It was to help them heal. When they saw it, they were so overcome. It was my grandson who found the tile on the wall. He was 3 years old, and he knew how to spell his brother's name. That was a special moment. It brought them such peace to know that "Matty" would be remembered. And what better place to have him remembered than on Eden Hill?

Like the Barbato family, benefactors can have the name of a deceased child etched on a glass tile. You may also include your name or someone whose pro-life witness you want to honor in a register 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 visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org or call Father Joseph's assistants for special gifts at 1-800-462-7426, ext. 5.

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The place that mercy calls home

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FORMATION

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losophy and/or theology classes, or they may study other disciplines, such as catechetics, counseling, or even specific trades that will benefit the Church and/or the community, such as cooking or library sciences.

Pastoral formation. All Marian students have the opportunity to participate in Marian ministries in keeping with our charism. Thus, seminarians may help lead Divine Mercy cenacles or Bible studies, teach RCIA or other levels of religious education, and serve at the altar. In the summers, if they are not taking classes or learning how to minister to patients in a hospital, seminarians typically help serve the pilgrims at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Seminarians usually dedicate a year to apostolic service to deepen their ministerial formation. They may help at a parish; assist Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC, who spends much of the year on the road giving Divine Mercy parish missions; or assist at the National Shrine.

Persevering in the journey

Post-novitiate formation lasts a minimum of three years and a maximum of nine. When both the individual and the Congregation feel that he is ready to make a permanent commitment, he may then make final or perpetual vows. For priesthood candidates, perpetual profession is followed by ordination to the dia-

conate and, after at least another six months, ordination to the priesthood.

A key to persevering in the journey is not to be too focused on the goal, but to live in the present moment and see every day as a gift from God and an opportunity to serve Him.

After his novitiate, Br. Michael experienced the grace of a shift in outlook in this regard. "When I first entered the novitiate, all I could think about was making my first vows — getting to the next step," he said.

"But as time went on and I made my way through the various stages of formation, I began to experience our Lord's healing touch in my life, appreciating how He was forming me into the man that He created me to be. I came to realize that the journey was just as important as the destination. The question is no longer, 'When will I be ordained?' but rather, 'Lord, what do You have for me today?'"

Such a mature attitude is a good indicator that a man in formation is ready to take the next step. In the case of Br. Michael, he made his perpetual vows last fall and is now preparing for the priesthood. Please keep him and all our men in formation in your prayers. MH



Father Jim McCormack, MIC, serves as novice master, prefect of formation, and local superior at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C.

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Outstanding Helpers

by Mary Flournoy

'I stayed up all night reading [the *Diary*]'

I am fascinated by the unique ways that Marian Helpers come to know about the Divine Mercy message and devotion through the ministries of the Marian Fathers. Chris made a gift in November to support the Marians' publishing ministry, responding to our "Giving Tuesday" appeal at marian.org on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

When I called Chris to thank him for his gift, he stressed how his connection with Divine Mercy and the Marians had started when he first read the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska at his mother's urging. So I ended up talking to both Chris and his mother, Rose. Here's their story.

"I read the *Diary* even before Sr. Faustina was beatified," said Chris. "My mother said to me, 'You should read this book! This is really amazing!'"

"I read it, and it is amazing," said Chris. "My mother gives me great advice."

Rose was introduced to Sr. Faustina back in the 1980s when Angelina, a friend at work, gave her a prayercard with an image of Sr. Faustina on the front and an image of the Divine Mercy on the back.

A few years later, Rose and her family moved. The prayercard made the move, but was just put in a drawer. Then Rose was ill for a few days, and another friend, Alice, came by. "She brought me a pamphlet with the Image of the Divine Mercy on the front and Sr. Faustina on the back, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy inside. She told me to say the prayer for healing. 'There's that nun again' was my first thought," Rose admitted. But she did start to pray the chaplet, and she decided that she ought to find out more about the nun who kept appearing in her life.

The more she learned, the more fascinated she became. She shared the chaplet with her



"I read the *Diary* even before Sr. Faustina was beatified," said Chris. "My mother said to me, 'You should read this book! This is really amazing!'"

father. "His greatest concern was that his cancer would end his life before my mother died." Rose said, "So he prayed the chaplet every day at 3 p.m. that God would allow him to live long enough to care for her." His wife preceded him in

death by 18 months. "That was all he wanted," Rose said. "His prayers were answered."

Divine Mercy became even more a part of Rose's life when Alice took Rose and her husband to her parish on Divine Mercy Sunday. Then, the couple drove down to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, in Chicago, which was constructing a sanctuary of the Divine Mercy at the time. "They had a big banner of Sr. Faustina in front of the church," laughed Rose.

Rose then learned much more about the nun she kept encountering when Alice gave her a copy of the *Diary*. "I stayed up all night reading it," said Rose. "It was fascinating! I immediately ordered copies for all my children."

Rose's connection to Divine Mercy and St. Faustina came full circle after her parents' deaths. As she was going through old papers, she came upon donations made by her mother to the Marian Fathers long before Angelina, her friend at work, gave Rose her first prayercard with Sr. Faustina on it. "The Lord kept putting Divine Mercy in my life until I paid attention," Rose summed up.

If you would like to help spread the message of Divine Mercy by supporting the Marian Fathers' publishing ministry, please contact me.

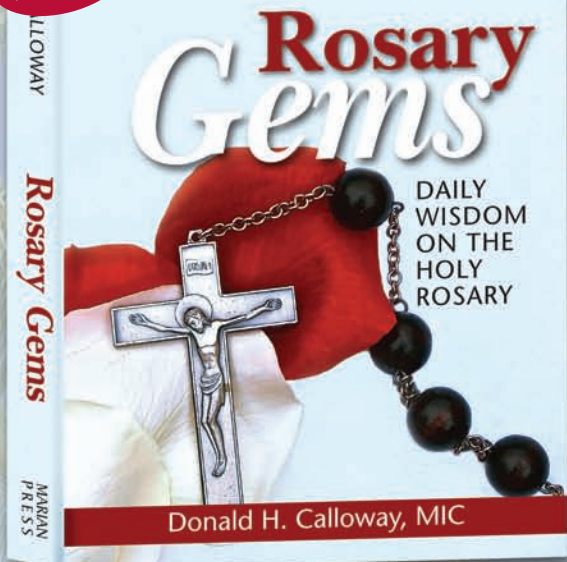
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Mary Flournoy is a donor relations officer for the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. You can call her toll free at 1-800-462-7426, ext. 5. Or email her at helpers@marian.org.

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[See a review of *Rosary Gems* on page 6.](#)

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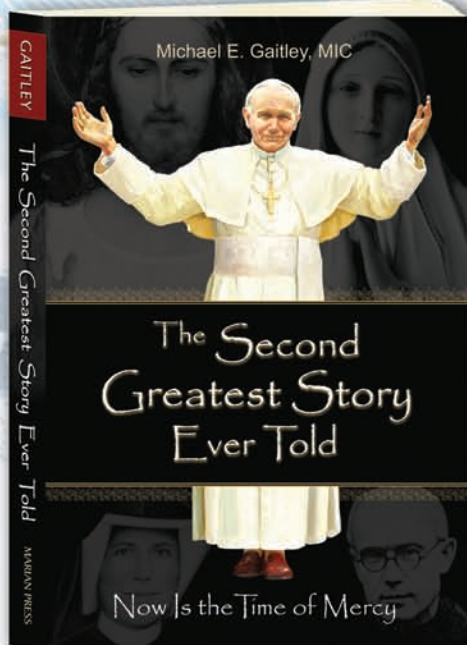
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— Mario Enzler
Swiss Guard for Pope John Paul II

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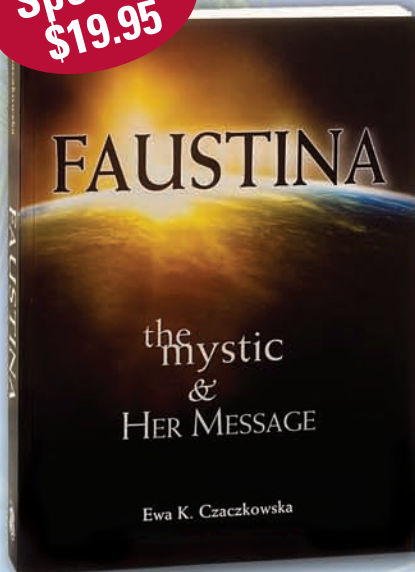
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From the very beginning of the spread of the Divine Mercy message at the onset of World War II, hardly anything was known about Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the instrument divinely chosen to bring Divine Mercy to the attention of the world. There was little information about her life and origins even after the publication of her *Diary* in 1981.

Who was this humble, obscure, and unlettered religious sister, who ranked fifth among the 100 greatest Catholics of the 20th century in a 1999 newspaper survey conducted on the eve of her canonization?

Now, this monumental biography provides a superabundance of information and photos that will satisfy the desire of many souls — including thousands of Divine Mercy devotees — to get to know St. Faustina.

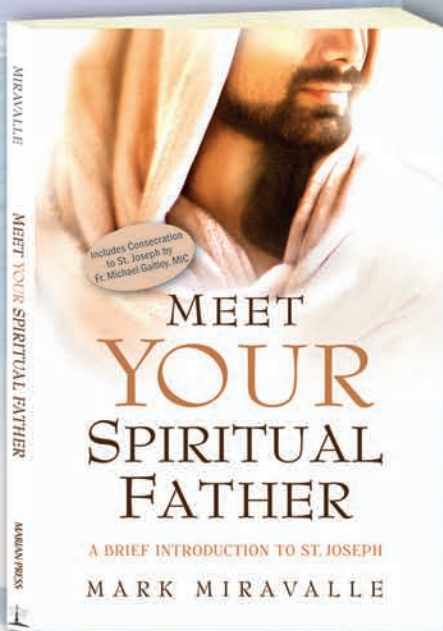
— Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC

Meet Your Spiritual Father

A Brief Introduction to St. Joseph

He's introduced the Blessed Virgin Mary as our spiritual mother in *Meet Your Mother*. Now, renowned Marian scholar and popular author Dr. Mark Miravalle draws on the wisdom of Scripture, key saints, and popes to help you discover the value of devotion to St. Joseph as your spiritual father. Includes "practical wisdom and sublime insights" on St. Joseph, says Devin Schadt, author of *Joseph's Way: The Call to Fatherly Greatness*.

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Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper



'Marian Helper in my life'

I can tell you what *Marian Helper* magazine is and what it isn't. What it *isn't* is a publication that you're generally going to find on the desks of CEOs of the Forbes 500, or presidents of universities, or powerful politicians. What it *is* is something you find on the kitchen table or dining room table of ordinary Catholics striving for holiness.

And for this very reason, *Marian Helper* makes a very large impact.

Think about it: God seeks ordinary people to do extraordinary things. So many of these ordinary people are Marian Helpers who have been touched and strengthened by the stories and witness of others and by seeing how the Merciful Lord is working in people's lives. *Marian Helper* has been a continual source of nourishment for so many people to grow in the faith, deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and to do something about that faith.

In my own ministry as the director of the Marians' Evangelization Team, *Marian Helper* has been the point of entry for parishes across the country to invite Marians to come and give missions. Most of the people I meet are not necessarily the "movers and shakers" in their communities. But we see them grow. They become inspired to be foot soldiers in the spread of Divine Mercy. Through sacrifices both big and small, these are people who strive to build up the Kingdom of God, and that's where the *real* power is.

Father Dan Cambra, MIC, directs the Evangelization Team and travels to parishes to give missions.



Fr. Dan
Marian



Mary Kay
Helper

I first heard of Divine Mercy and Sr. Faustina when a fellow catechist handed me a copy of *Marian Helper* magazine, back then known as *The BULLETIN*. It was February 1993, just two months prior to Sr. Faustina's beatification. On the cover was Maureen Digan, the recipient of the first

miracle attributed to Sr. Faustina's intercession. As I read about Maureen's miraculous healing, I wanted to learn more.

My friend then handed me an issue of the magazine with Sr. Faustina herself on the cover. This one opened up a whole new world for me.

My friend invited me to join her and seven others on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and the beatification of Sr. Faustina. I was thrilled. That pilgrimage changed my life. I purchased my first copy of the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska that day and began distributing leaflets and prayercards. I wanted everyone to know about God's unfathomable mercy.

Over the years, I have faithfully read *Marian Helper* and developed a greater knowledge of the Marian Fathers and a deeper love for their mission. God was preparing me for my future.

In November 2007, I began working for the Marians and now promote their mission. Recently, I shared with Maureen how that one issue led me to Stockbridge and how her witness impacted my life. My journey home began with *Marian Helper*.

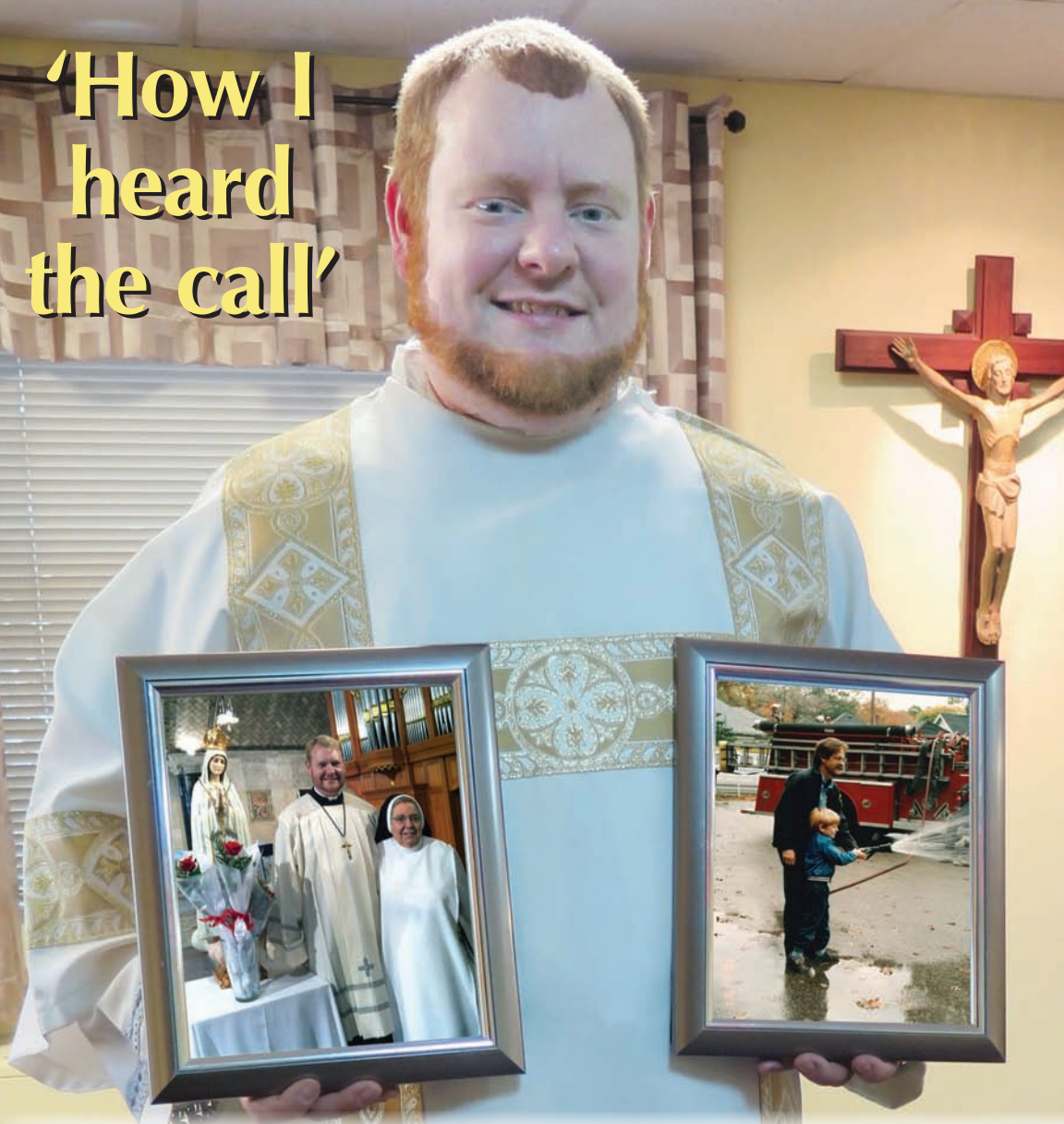
Mary Kay Volpone assists the Marians as a staffer at the National Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

"*Marian Helper* is something you find on the kitchen table or dining room table of ordinary Catholics."

"Over the years, I have read *Marian Helper* and developed a deeper love for the Marian Fathers' mission."

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'How I heard the call'



Deacon Allen Alexander, MIC:

When I first thought of the priesthood, my great-aunt Sr. Geneva Marie (photo left) immediately came to mind. I was about 5 or 6 years old when I told her that I was thinking of becoming a firefighter (photo right) because I wanted to save people from fires. She looked at me intently and said, "Just think, you could become a priest and save people from the fires of hell!" I never forgot what she said as I began to look into different religious communities in which I could pursue my priestly vocation. I found none more powerfully focused on saving people from the fires of hell than the Marians who promote Divine Mercy.

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



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

The next retreats will be:
Sept. 4-6, Nov. 27-29,
Dec. 11-13.

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

E-mail: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
Website: marian.org/vocations



Father Donald talks about the formation process.
marian.org/vocsupport/ blessings/

Want to help the seminarians? Visit marian.org/vocsupport or call 1-800-671-2020.



Thank God!

One way to thank God is by using the gifts He gives us for His greater glory. When you write your will, please remember the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. Your gift will help the Marian Fathers lead more people to Christ through Mary. Now that's cause for thanks.



For a free copy of **How to Make a Will That Works**, email or call Ellen Miller at: helpers@marian.org 1-800-462-7426, ext. 5.

Visit marian.org/wills to learn more.



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