

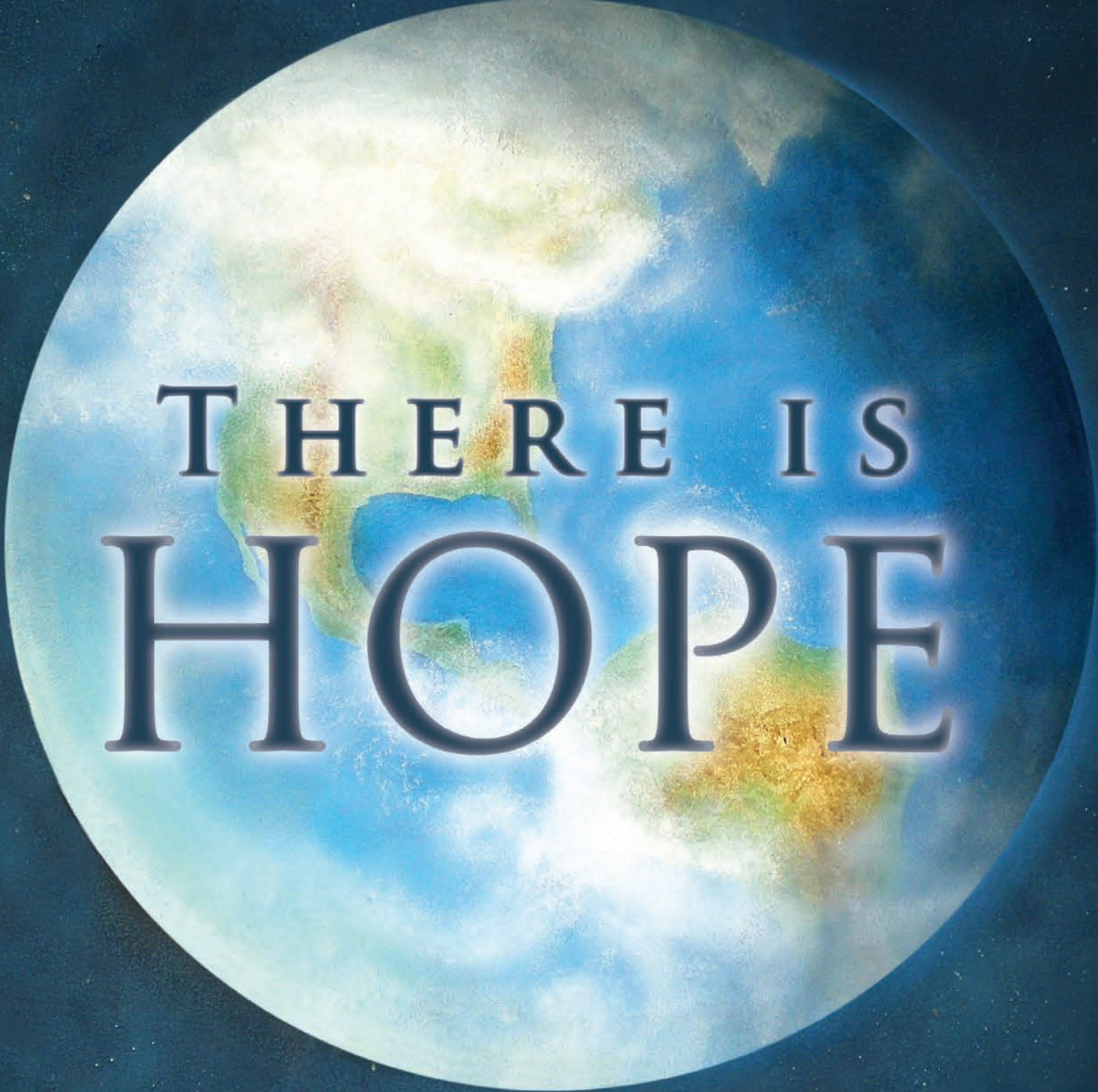
MARIAN FOUNDER TO BE CANONIZED!

Summer 2016

# Marian Helper

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

[marian.org/imh](http://marian.org/imh)



THERE IS  
HOPE

YOU RESPONDED

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Fr. Joseph,  
MIC, explains  
enrollments.



# Give a promise of prayer that will last forever

**Jubilee Year Perpetual  
Enrollment Folder**  
Padded, Gold Foiled  
**B30-JERPW**



Also  
Available  
in Blue  
**B30-JERPB**



**B30-PERPW**  
**Immaculate Conception**  
Padded, Gold Foiled



**B30-PERPB**  
**Divine Mercy**  
Padded, Gold Foiled



These durable  
perpetual  
enrollment folders  
were designed to  
commemorate a  
special occasion or  
to be a consolation  
to friends or loved  
ones who have  
suffered a great loss.



**We can  
send it  
for you!**

**Order or send your enrollment today.**  
**Visit [marian.org/enrollments](http://marian.org/enrollments) or call 1-800-462-7426.**

Your offerings help support the Marian Fathers, our seminarians, and our many ministries.

Page  
**10** **Did we  
do it?**

Marian Helpers responded en masse to our call in the Spring issue to “Help Save the World.” So what was the result? All Heaven broke loose.

## **8** **Our Founder, our saint**

It’s a miracle! Literally. Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, the Founder of the Marian Fathers, will be canonized.

## **16** **Faith *with* works**

The tragic death of a teen leads to a plea for prayer. A family embraces children with life-limiting or terminal diagnoses. A parish priest has a million thoughts in mind to bring mercy to the world. In this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we continue to highlight people making a difference in the lives of others.

## **20** **‘Father’ figure**

When it comes to ministering to youth, it takes more than just showing up. It takes more than the Sacraments. Sometimes it takes laser tag.

## **22** **All in the family**

Pope Francis has released his long-awaited apostolic exhortation on marriage and the family. Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, gives us a primer.

### **DEPARTMENTS**

- 3** Father Joseph Writes   **4** Marian Helpers in Action   **6** Father Joseph’s Picks  
**7** Notes from Rome   **24** Graces Received   **27** Shrine News  
**29** Outstanding Helpers   **32** From Our Archives

**AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER**

Fr. Chris Alar, MIC  
“Father Joseph, MIC”

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Felix Carroll

**DESIGNER/ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Andrew Leeco

**WRITERS**

Chris Sparks, Joan Lamar

**AMH GENERAL PROMOTER**

Br. Andrew R. Maczynski, MIC



Vol. 71, No. 2  
Summer 2016

**Cover credit:** Artist Stephen Kallai of Master’s Touch Decorative Painting & Murals, Mill Valley, California.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

# WHO WE ARE



## Marian Helpers Center

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

## National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

(413) 298-3931  
For pilgrimages:  
(413) 298-1119  
[marian.org/shrine](http://marian.org/shrine)



## Mercy Apostolates

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

## Evangelization Team

Invite the Marians  
to speak at your parish.  
(413) 298-1349  
[parishmissions@marian.org](mailto:parishmissions@marian.org)

## Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs (HAPP<sup>®</sup>)

[AllHeartsAfire.org](http://AllHeartsAfire.org)  
1-844-551-3755

## Intercessory Prayerline

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

## Websites

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



## Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

## Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

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

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

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

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



YouTube



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

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US

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

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

## Arrange a special gift:

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

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

## When making your will ...

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is:

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

# HOPE RUNS HIGH

When we began planning this issue of *Marian Helper*, we hadn't intended for a second consecutive cover to be emblazoned with an artist's rendering of our world from space. We had other plans. But then, on April 3, we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, and I believe the world changed. You can read why in my cover story (see page 10).

Suffice it to say, with this issue we're inclined to continue our look at the *big picture*. As this issue's cover image portrays, Light is shining upon our world. It's Light such as I've never before witnessed: Light with a capital L, a Light that is the Lord who seeks to bring hope and healing to a world darkened by sin and despair.

When I say I'm filled with hope, I come armed with facts. The facts are these: The Lord is clearly allowing Marian Helpers and the Marian Fathers to play a pivotal role in the renewal of the world — and He's rewarding us for our efforts.

For starters, our Marian Founder will be canonized on June 5 (see page 8). Let me say that again: Our Marian Founder, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, will be canonized! And not only that, but he and Blessed Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad of Sweden will be the *first* saints to be canonized in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

I suspect the Lord is trying to tell us something. He has tasked the Marians and Marian Helpers to undertake crucial work for His Kingdom — specifically, to spread the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina

and devotion to Our Lady and the Holy Souls in Purgatory. By seeing to it

that our Founder is canonized during this momentous Jubilee Year, our Lord is giving us a sign that He's pleased with our work. Not only that: He's urging us to double up our efforts.

This leads me to a second fact that brings me hope. Our Lord is seeing to it that young



Here's the cover of our Spring issue. Since then, things have been getting brighter.

men from all walks of life are answering God's call to the priesthood through the Marian Fathers. While the Church suffers steep declines in vocations, the Marians are experiencing an historic vocations boom. In all, we have more than 30 men in various stages of formation — the most in the history of our Congregation in the United States.

You, our Marian Helpers, are directly responsible for these two great reasons for hope. Through your prayers, our Founder is being canonized this Jubilee Year. Through your prayers and financial support, our Congregation is growing.

As we prepare for the June 5 canonization, there's something I want to give you in thanksgiving. The Marians will offer an octave of Masses here at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy from Aug. 15, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through Aug. 22, the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Masses will be said for the intentions of our Marian Helpers through the intercession of soon-to-be *Saint* Stanislaus Papczynski. (If you choose, visit [marian.org/b30](http://marian.org/b30) to send us your specific intentions.) After all, we have a proven and powerful intercessor in Heaven. Now, let's continue living his legacy. Through our trust in the Lord, may we continue to beautify and sanctify the big picture!

*Fr. Joseph, MIC*

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





## After the battle, the war begins

**W**hen Vincent Ricciardi was sent to Da Nang on May 10, 1968, the United States was at the height of its involvement in the war in Vietnam. The “Tet Offensive” had taken place that January, as the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong directed their combined power against the South Vietnamese and U.S. forces. A member of the U.S. Army’s 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces, Vince was sent to Vietnam to assist in the raging conflict, but his time there was cut short. On May 28, 1968, 18 days after he arrived, he was seriously wounded. For Vince, that’s when his life’s mission began.

### **Describe what happened that day you were seriously wounded.**

Our unit was going on to Hills 100 A and B. As we made our ascent, we took some casualties. I was about a half hour into the firefight and got shot. I continued to move, got hit by a rocket, but it didn’t explode. Two more rockets came in, and I got blown up into the air and then got shot again. It was a little over eight hours before we were medevaced out of the area. Just as I got

onto the helicopter, I got shot in the rear and, as we were flying out, I got shot in the leg. When I got to the field hospital, a young doctor on staff examined me and said, “There’s nothing I can do here, let’s move on.” I screamed at him, “I’m only 18 years old, and you’re gonna let me die?” The surgeon in charge heard my yelling and came over to me and said, “Don’t worry, kid, I’m going to take care of you.” The surgery was about 20 hours long because there were so many fragments. They were able to get the bullets out, but during the surgery I had an out-of-body experience. I was very comfortable and remember a brightness, but it was very serene. I was able to watch what was happening as the surgeon who was operating on me was massaging my heart. And I heard the words, “It’s not your time.”

### **What were some of the residual effects of your wounds in Vietnam?**

Nightmares. Daymares. Tremors. I was diagnosed with [what we know today as] Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but back then, doctors didn’t really know how to treat it, so a group of us Vietnam veterans

got together and sort of helped each other, counseling one another. That's basically how we coped with life.

**You are now a deacon in the Church and have a healing ministry where you meet with and counsel soldiers who have seen combat. How is the Lord using your military experience and its effects in your ministry?**

I knew the Lord was calling me to do something more and was ordained a deacon in 2005 for the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, and helped found Divine Mercy New Jersey, as well as a healing ministry that incorporates Divine Mercy. Within our diocese, we have Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base, and we minister to a lot of soldiers. A lot of the men and women from the bases have heard about our Divine Mercy healing ministry, so they find us. When I meet with soldiers or combat veterans who suffer from PTSD, I tell them how I was able to overcome PTSD. Initially, they see in me somebody who cares about them and is willing to listen to them and that they are not alone. With PTSD, they feel alone. They begin to believe that no one can help them — or that no one wants to help them. I tell them that I was able to beat PTSD because I got close to Jesus and allowed Him to take over my life. When you bring Jesus into the picture, you can overcome this, too, I tell them.

**What are some of the issues these soldiers are dealing with?**

Many soldiers who have seen combat suffer from drug and alcohol addictions. A lot of them are treated with a variety of drugs because of their injuries and other PTSD-related ailments, and they become dependent on them. I know from personal experience that these drugs are addictive because I was treated with a valium-type drug for my PTSD, and I became immune to the drug. This practice of overprescribing medications is still happening with our veterans today. “Drug ’em up,” is how I characterize the situation. But this can lead to drug abuse, homelessness, alcohol abuse, and spousal abuse.

**How do you bring Divine Mercy into your ministry?**

Every time I counsel a soldier or veteran, we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. A lot of the healing in this ministry comes through them praying the chaplet and saying, “Jesus, I trust in You.” These are the most powerful words they can say. Deep prayer, deep belief in Jesus, and coming together as a community in Church is the most effective treatment for these soldiers. MH

— Joan Lamar

## IN BRIEF

At his own expense, our dear friend **Ed Moore**, 84, of Akron, Ohio, gave away 850,000 Divine Mercy pamphlets and prayercards over the last 12 years. With regret, he told us recently it's time to end his ministry. Alzheimer's is taking its toll, he said.

“He's such a sweet, unbelievable man,” said Donna Mulholland, a retired employee from our Member Services Department, who took many of Ed's orders for Divine Mercy materials over the years. Ed spent a large portion of his savings and nearly all of his free time sending parishes in nearly every state east of the Mississippi bulk quantities of Divine Mercy materials — at no cost and with no questions asked. “I don't mind spending the money because I know it saves souls,” he said.

Years ago, at the back of a church, Ed found a pamphlet explaining the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The chaplet changed his life — and launched his ministry.

Just one Divine Mercy pamphlet led to all this. Imagine what 850,000 are doing! God bless you, Ed!

\* \* \*

Two weeks in Ireland in August? Sounds like cool relief from the pressing heat of summertime Texas. **Dave and Joan Maroney**, the husband-and-wife team of the Texas-based Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM), an apostolate of the Marian Fathers, have been invited to launch “Divine Mercy for Ireland.” Modeled after their Divine Mercy for America campaign, the plan calls for nurturing personal holiness, utilizing the promises Jesus makes through St. Faustina, and spreading the message of Divine Mercy to others.

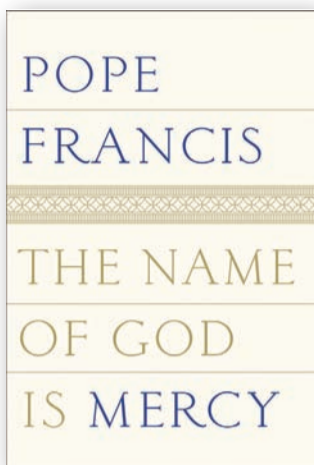
“There's a great contact there eager to have us come work with what he termed the ‘tribal leaders’ around the country,” said Joan. “The Church in Ireland is suffering, but there are many holy people devoted to the Divine Mercy that are in need of hope and a unified plan to turn things around.” No doubt the Maroneys are the right people, with the right message, at the right time. Thus far, MOMM has launched and supported Divine Mercy for Nigeria, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago. Meanwhile, the Divine Mercy for America campaign continues to grow in dioceses from sea to shining sea. For more information, visit [DivineMercyforAmerica.org](http://DivineMercyforAmerica.org).

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

## FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b30](http://ShopMercy.org/b30) or call 1-800-462-7426.

Prepare yourself and your local community to bring Divine Mercy to the Church and the world with these great resources for the Jubilee Year.



### THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY

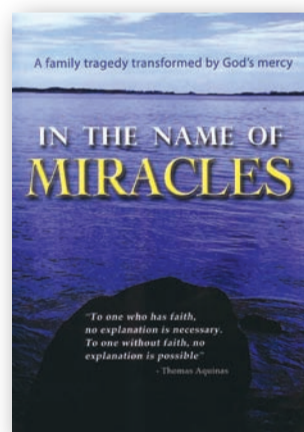
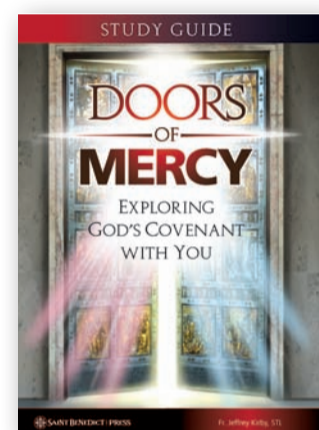
In this short, easy read, Pope Francis discusses the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, explaining in his own words why he called the Holy Year, how to celebrate it, and how to receive God's infinite mercy. The book-length interview includes some of Pope Francis' own personal experiences of God's mercy as a Catholic and a pastor, making this a unique glimpse into the heart and soul of the Holy Father. His papal bull, *Misericordiae Vultus* (*The Face of Mercy*), is included as an appendix. A must-read during the Jubilee. \$25.95. **B30-GMBK**

### DOORS OF MERCY (DVD SET)

Father Jeffrey Kirby's eight-week program offers a great Scriptural introduction to God's mercy in salvation history, especially in the Old Testament covenants, the prophets' call to renewal, and the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. Father Chris Alar, MIC, agreed to participate in making the series because many people believe that the God of the Old Testament didn't become merciful until the Incarnation of Jesus. No! God's mercy has always been present, as this program makes plain. Share *Doors of Mercy* with your family or parish in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

HOME STUDY SET — \$49.95. **B30-DOOR**

PARISH LEADER PACK — \$149.95. **B30-PLDOR**



### IN THE NAME OF MIRACLES (DVD)

You may be familiar with the incredible witness of Bob and Maureen Digan, but you've never seen it presented like this before. Maureen was the recipient of the miraculous healing that helped obtain Sr. Faustina's beatification, a miracle only made possible by Bob's extraordinary trust in God. Now, the Digans tell the complete story of that miracle in this moving DVD, sharing their faith, their family's story, and how Divine Mercy is, indeed, the message for our times. Essential viewing for Divine Mercy devotees. \$19.95. **B30-MDDVD**

### EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY INDULGENCE (PAMPHLET)

Every Jubilee Year is enriched with a special indulgence by the Holy Father, but this year's indulgence, like this Jubilee of Mercy, is extraordinary. Find out how you can get this ple- nary indulgence as often as once a day, just by walking through a local Holy Door or performing a work of mercy (and fulfilling the usual conditions). Make this a true Jubilee for our brethren in Purgatory. Set the captives free with indulgences, and gather for yourself many grateful intercessors in Heaven above. **B30-JYIPF**

#### PAMPHLET PRICING

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





# VIVID DREAM DECODED

**O**ur Marian Superior General, Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC, also serves as the Marians' postulator general, the one in charge of the process of the canonization of our Founder, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, who will be declared a saint on June 5. As the postulator, he was invited to attend the public Consistory of Cardinals at the Vatican on March 15. At lunch in our house in Rome the day before, he shared with those of us at the table a vivid dream he had experienced the night before.

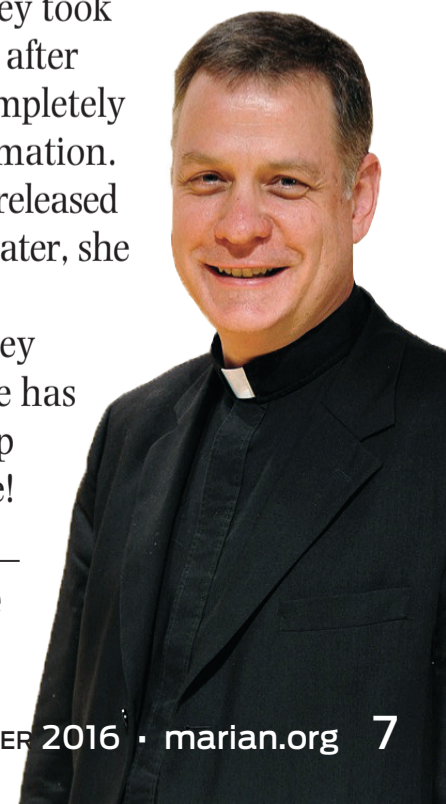
He stated that, in his dream, he was in a room with various important officials. He was asked to relate the story of the miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. As he started doing so, he became frightened to see black shapes oozing out of the floor like liquid. Then he realized they were demons, a lot of them, like one massive, impersonal body, very angry and evil. They were everywhere, and they increased in intensity. He began doing whatever he could think of to stop them: praying, saying a kind of exorcism, extending a blessing, and ultimately, praying the Rosary. When he prayed the Rosary, the demons receded and did not return.

What did he think this dream meant? We asked him and he reflected on the process of the canonization. One could ask, "Why is it important that someone be canonized, that the Church declares a person holy, who is worthy of imitation, and a powerful intercessor?" Well, when Christ performed a miracle on earth, it was a sign of the reign of the Kingdom of Heaven and the defeat of the Evil One. When someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, this is a sign of the triumph of grace in the life of that person and proof of the intimate presence of Jesus within every human being. God's plan for the person has been accomplished; the designs of the Evil One to destroy the person have been overcome. When we read in the Gospels of the miracles Christ performed, we can imagine the frustration of the Evil One. I believe the dream of Fr. Andrzej is meant to give us hope. God is more powerful than any evil in the world. This speaks of the ultimate triumph of good over evil in God's plan.

The canonization miracle through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus involved the physical healing of a 20-year-old Polish woman, shortly after Blessed Stanislaus' beatification in 2007. This woman, who was engaged to be married, had been suffering from what appeared to be a bad cold. She took different medications, but things kept getting worse. She was eventually admitted to the hospital and then moved to the intensive care unit. She had pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, multiple organ failure, and septic shock. Since she couldn't breathe on her own, she was intubated and ventilated. Doctors suspected she had pulmonary fibrosis — a scarring of the lung tissue that makes it difficult to breathe and is irreversible. The doctors had no hope for her recovery.

During Holy Week, her family began a novena of prayer for her through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. They prayed before the Blessed Sacrament and offered Masses for her recovery. There was a slight change for the better on the Easter Vigil, and then she kept improving. When they took new x-rays of her lungs three days after the Easter Vigil, her lungs were completely normal with no scarring or inflammation. A little over a month later, she was released from the hospital, and two months later, she was married.

Stories like this give us hope. They remind us that God is in charge. He has not abandoned us. We need to keep living our lives with faith and hope!



---

Father Joe Roesch, MIC, is the vicar general of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome.



Who was  
Blessed  
Stanislaus  
Papczynski.

# OUR FOUNDER, OUR SAINT

It's official. The Marians' Founder will be canonized by Pope Francis on June 5, in Rome.

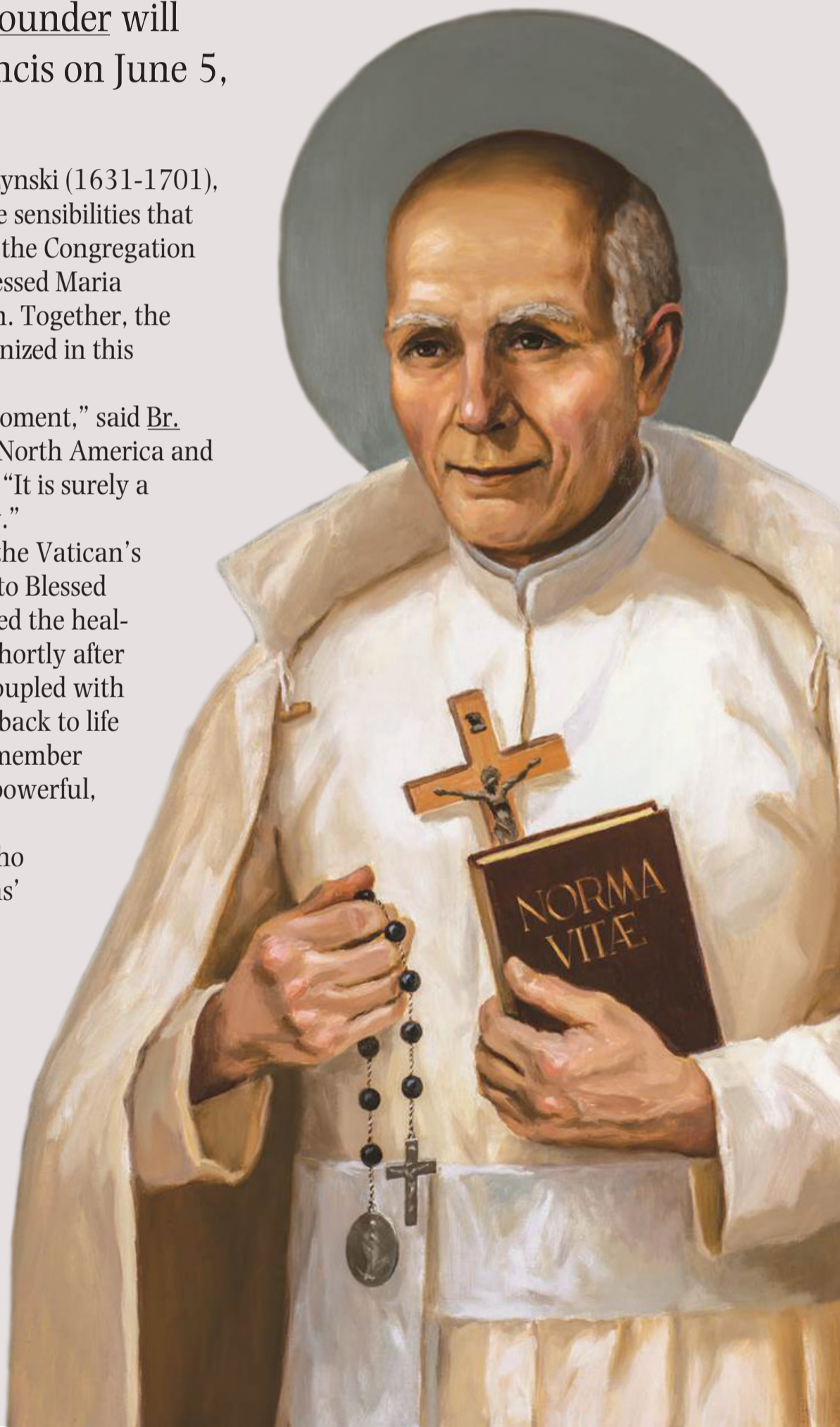
Blessed Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski (1631-1701), whose writings and apostolic works laid bare sensibilities that became the distinguishing characteristics of the Congregation he founded, will be canonized along with Blessed Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad (1870-1957) of Sweden. Together, the fellow Europeans will be the first saints canonized in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

"We've been waiting 315 years for this moment," said Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, vice-postulator in North America and Asia for the Marian Causes of Canonization. "It is surely a great moment for the Marians in our history."

The canonization date was set following the Vatican's approval in January of a miracle attributed to Blessed Stanislaus' intercession. The miracle involved the healing of a 20-year-old, terminally ill woman shortly after Blessed Stanislaus' beatification in 2007. Coupled with the beatification miracle — a fetus brought back to life as a result of prayers by a desperate family member — Blessed Stanislaus has proven himself a powerful, pro-life intercessor.

"In both cases, we see the work of God, who brings back life from death," said the Marians' Superior General Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC.

Both miracles occurred in Blessed Stanislaus' homeland of Poland, where he remains a folk hero to this day, known both for his mysticism and his no-nonsense undertaking of the duties set before him by Divine Providence. Those duties included serving as a chaplain in the Polish army in the midst of protracted and bloody political and social upheaval. Of humble origins, the future saint would go on to serve as



confessor to both King John III Sobieski and the then-Papal Nuncio for Poland, who would later become Pope Innocent XII.

Meanwhile, he was a prolific writer and fiery preacher. His mystical experiences included visions of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. He would tell his confreres, “Pray, brethren, for the souls in Purgatory, for they suffer unbearably.” So strong was his devotion to the Blessed Mother that he named his Congregation for her Immaculate Conception. This was nearly 200 years before the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of the faith.

Indeed, he was a man of his times and a man of God — characteristics he would conjoin and codify in the Constitutions of the Congregation he founded in 1673.

Today, his spiritual sons now serving in some 20 countries around the world, discover in their vocations a direct link to their Founder, who demanded of his Congregation a daily and dogged pursuit of sanctification for the glory of God and the Church. And like him, they undertake the duties set before them by Divine Providence. Most notably for the Marian Fathers in the United States, that includes the task of spreading the Divine Mercy revelations of another Pole — another humble model of mercy: St. Faustina.

Marian priests and brothers from throughout the world are expected to attend the canonization. In the meantime, the Congregation is in the midst of a year dedicated to the Founder’s life and virtues. Translations of his writings in various languages are underway, including in English.

“It would seem that this man could tell our modern times that it is worth believing, despite the greatest adversities and illnesses — that it is worth dedicating one’s life to God, even if all signs on earth and in Heaven say that He has forgotten us,” said Fr. Andrzej.

The extraordinary facts of the Founder’s life all point to a God who hasn’t forgotten us.

Look for our special canonization issue of *Marian Helper* in early August. For canonization coverage from Rome, visit [marian.org](http://marian.org) on June 5.

**The Marians will offer an octave of Masses for the intentions of Marian Helpers through the intercession of our Founder. To send us your intentions, please visit [marian.org/b30](http://marian.org/b30).** MH

— Felix Carroll

## Father Founder, we have a request

We know Marian Founder Stanislaus Papczynski is a powerful intercessor. After all, to be canonized a saint, you normally need to have two miracles officially attributed to your intercession, one for your beatification and one for your canonization. And there are no small-time, totally subjective, “well, it felt like a miracle to me!” occurrences allowed. No — these have to be miracles that experts can examine and declare scientifically inexplicable.

Father Founder’s first miracle was the “restoration to life” of a child in the womb. His second miracle was the complete healing of a woman’s lungs after her doctors had declared her condition to be irreversible and terminal.

When Blessed Stanislaus gets praying, the effects resonate in Heaven and on earth. So keeping all that in mind, we have a proposition for you. Let’s ask for some powerful intercession.

Let’s start asking him to pray for the success of the petition drive we launched last fall, requesting the Holy Father to make St. Faustina the next Doctor of the Church.

Now, since Father Founder’s Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception has been a leading promoter of the Divine Mercy message and devotion since 1941, that shouldn’t be too much to ask. After all, he is to be canonized right in the middle of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, a little less than two months before the Holy Father goes to meet many of the Catholic young people of the world in Krakow, Poland, home turf of St. Faustina Kowalska, the “Secretary of God’s Mercy,” and St. John Paul II, the Great Mercy Pope.

So let’s ask Father Founder to help spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion to the ends of the earth. Let us pray:

O God, Your providence has set the canonization of Marian Founder Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We thank you for that tremendous blessing, and we ask that, through Fr. Stanislaus’ intercession, St. Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament may swiftly be declared a Doctor of the Church in order to better spread the good news of Your Divine Mercy to the ends of the earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Divine Mercy Incarnate. Amen. MH

— Chris Sparks



The consecration  
to Divine Mercy on  
Divine Mercy Sunday.

# You responded, and...

# THERE IS HOPE

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

“I’ve worked here for 35 years, and I’ve never seen anything like this.”  
“Can you believe it? We got so many calls, the phone system actually melted down!”

“It’s been two weeks, and it’s not slowing down — is this going to end?”

“Father, please, no more special deals!”

That’s just a small sample of what I heard from employees in the halls of our Marian Helpers Center this past February. In fact, my staff and I were shocked, surprised, and *completely overwhelmed* by your response to my call in the cover story of the last issue of *Marian Helper* magazine to “Help Save the World.” Indeed, more than *60,000* of you chose to prepare yourselves for a consecration to Divine Mercy this past Divine Mercy Sunday based on Marian Fr. Michael Gaitley’s new book *33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy.*



Well, your amazing response and that consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday during this great Jubilee Year of Mercy did something wonderful: It helped change the world. I'm sure of it. Let me tell you why. Let me tell you why I have hope.

## 'Cold as Hell'

Let's start with the day itself. Divine Mercy Sunday at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on April 3 was brutal. Many of you who saw it on TV remarked, "It looked cold." No. It wasn't cold. It was *freezing*. Let me put it this way: It seems we had more snow this past Divine Mercy Sunday than we've had all winter here on Eden Hill. Also, it was so windy that there was talk of actually *cancelling* the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. (Thank God they didn't.)

Still, because of the terrible weather, we had to postpone the scheduled Divine Mercy Sunday *Vigil* Mass on April 2, which we hold every year at our

outdoor shrine. I can't express how heartbroken I was to hear of bus after bus filled with pilgrims having to leave Eden Hill that Saturday evening without Mass.

So what was going on with the horrible weather? Well, some blame the "polar vortex." Others blame "El Niño" or "climate change." As for me, I blame the devil. In other words, I believe that the weather was "cold as hell" *because of hell*. More specifically, I believe the devil was fuming angry about what was going to happen here this Divine Mercy Sunday, and so he threw everything at us: bitter cold, chilling wind, snow, sleet, rain, hail, and mud.

Now, in case you're wondering if the devil can affect the weather, yes, he can — if God allows it. And if it's true that God did allow all hell to break loose in terms of weather, He also allowed all of Heaven to break loose in terms of grace and mercy. And it's the latter part that's more important. It's the latter part that helps save the world. It's the latter part that gives us hope.

## All Heaven Breaks Loose

Those who were watching the live Divine Mercy Sunday broadcast on EWTN may have noticed an interesting weather shift. In fact, it was hard to miss. I know my co-host, Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, and I sure didn't!

For most of the show, despite our makeshift studio-shelter, we were either getting pelted by sleet and snow or pierced by icy winds. Also, over my shoulder, I couldn't help but notice a menacing, unbroken blanket of dark and ominous clouds that threatened even worse weather. But then, something dramatic happened. Let me explain the context.

For the last segment of the EWTN show, we invited Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, to talk about the consecration to Divine Mercy, which is the focus of *33 Days to Merciful Love*. Then, for the show's grand finale, Fr. Joe, myself, and Fr. Michael led a countless number of people watching the broadcast from around the world in actually making the consecration — and that's when it happened.

One of the viewers, Jeanie Evans from Corpus Christi, Texas, described it like this:

We watched your EWTN broadcast on Divine Mercy Sunday. We saw the dark sky, wind, and snow and also saw how the sky turned a beautiful blue and the clouds disappeared as we prayed our consecration prayer, united with others throughout the country and maybe even the world.

It's true. "The clouds disappeared," the weather calmed down, and the sky turned from "dark" to "a



For most of the broadcast, Frs. Chris Alar and Joe Roesch had to endure sleet, snow, and icy winds with a blanket of dark clouds overhead.



But then, during the consecration to Divine Mercy, the weather improved and the sky turned blue.

beautiful blue.” Coincidence? I don’t think so. I believe the Lord was highlighting in the natural heavens what was going on in the supernatural Heavens. He was showing us that He had heard our prayer. He was showing that just as the skies opened and brought in a marvelous light, so also was His Sacred Heart opened, and It poured down His Merciful Love.

Merciful Love. That’s what we asked for in our consecration to Divine Mercy. Reciting the prayer of consecration from 33 Days, we proclaimed our intention to fight discouragement, do little things with great love, and be merciful to our neighbor in deed, word, and prayer. We proclaimed our intention to keep before our eyes our own weakness and sin, trusting that our contrite hearts will please the Lord. We declared our belief that the Lord can transform us into saints. Through Mary Immaculate, we offered ourselves to God, opening up our hearts, our entire beings, knowing that He longs to pour out His Merciful Love, especially upon sinners.

Merciful Love: That’s what the world needs above all. In that alone resides our one true hope. As the Lord tells us through St. Faustina, “Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 699). But such saving mercy doesn’t just come from a one-time experience of prayer. We have to fully embrace mercy as a way of life, and there’s no better time to do it than during this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Before I get to that, though, let me first explain the context, that is, the troubling times we’re living in.

## What Time Is It?

In my article in the last issue of *Marian Helper*, I began with the following questions: Do you want to help save the world? Do you want to help bring the world back to God? Do you want to cause an ocean of mercy to overwhelm the raging inferno of hatred, violence, and war that have engulfed the world at this time?

So many of you enthusiastically responded in the affirmative. You exclaimed, “Yes, I want to help save the world!” And I think your response was so amazing — again, we’ve never seen anything like it — because we all know that the world desperately needs mercy. We all know that without a miracle of mercy, our world and our country are likely heading for ruin. We all know

that the solution to our problems doesn’t come from slick politicians, but rather, from the Lord.

Well, praise the Lord! I say that especially right now because He’s giving us a chance. He’s giving us great mercy. He’s giving us a time of mercy. As I shared in the last issue, according to Pope Francis, *now is the time of mercy*. In fact, thanks to our pope, we not only have a time of mercy, but a *time of mercy in the time of mercy*: the present Jubilee Year of Mercy.

But during this Jubilee, we’ve been able to experience

a *particularly* grace-filled moment of mercy, a special moment of grace when I believe the fate of the world may have been decided.

I believe that moment happened during our consecration to Divine Mercy this past Divine Mercy Sunday. I believe we helped change the world. Okay, but before you write me off as crazy, consider this: If God is giving us a time of mercy to help save the

world, doesn’t it make sense that it would happen during the present time of mercy, during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and on Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy Sunday. *That’s* the day. Remember, the Lord tells us through St. Faustina that on Divine Mercy Sunday itself, He opens “all the divine floodgates through which graces flow” (*Diary*, 699). Well, I’m convinced that’s what He did in a *huge* way this past Divine Mercy Sunday.

Again, on that day, more than 60,000 of you consecrated yourselves to Divine Mercy. Now, in the larger scheme of things, that might not seem like a lot. But consider this: Jesus told St. Faustina — mind you, He was talking to just *one woman* — “For your sake I will withhold the hand which punishes; for your sake I bless the earth” (*Diary*, 431). Okay, now further consider that it wasn’t just *one* of you who consecrated to Divine Mercy. Rather, it was *60,000* of you! In the spiritual realm, that’s one *massive* army. And what did that army do? In other words, what did you ask for? You Marian Helpers asked for all the grace and mercy rejected by others to come down into your hearts and then out to the world — and guess what? I believe it did. I believe God gave us a great victory on that day. I believe that what Jesus said to St. Faustina now applies to us: “For your sake I will withhold the hand which punishes; for your sake I bless the earth.” I believe that, just like the June 6, 1944 “D-Day” invasion did in World War II,

**“Merciful Love:  
That’s what the world  
needs above all. In  
that alone resides our  
one true hope.”**

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

we've established a solid beachhead on enemy territory. But the war is far from over. There's more work to be done.

## What's Next?

So, what else do we need to do? Well, for one, if you missed making your consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year, don't worry. There's still time to consecrate yourself during this Jubilee Year. Just make sure you read the article on page 15. (Actually, even if you did make the consecration, you'll want to read this article.)

Now, as for those of us who did make the consecration, I think the Marian Helper I mentioned earlier, Jeanie, put it best when she wrote the following after she and her husband made their consecration: "We are excited to be part of the blessed who received the rejected mercy of God, and we're confident God will provide us many opportunities to pass His mercy on to others."

I love these words especially: "God will provide us many opportunities to pass His mercy on to others." That really should be the result of the consecration to Divine Mercy. In other words, having obtained great mercy, we now need to pass on to others what we ourselves have received. We need to pass on the Lord's tenderness and

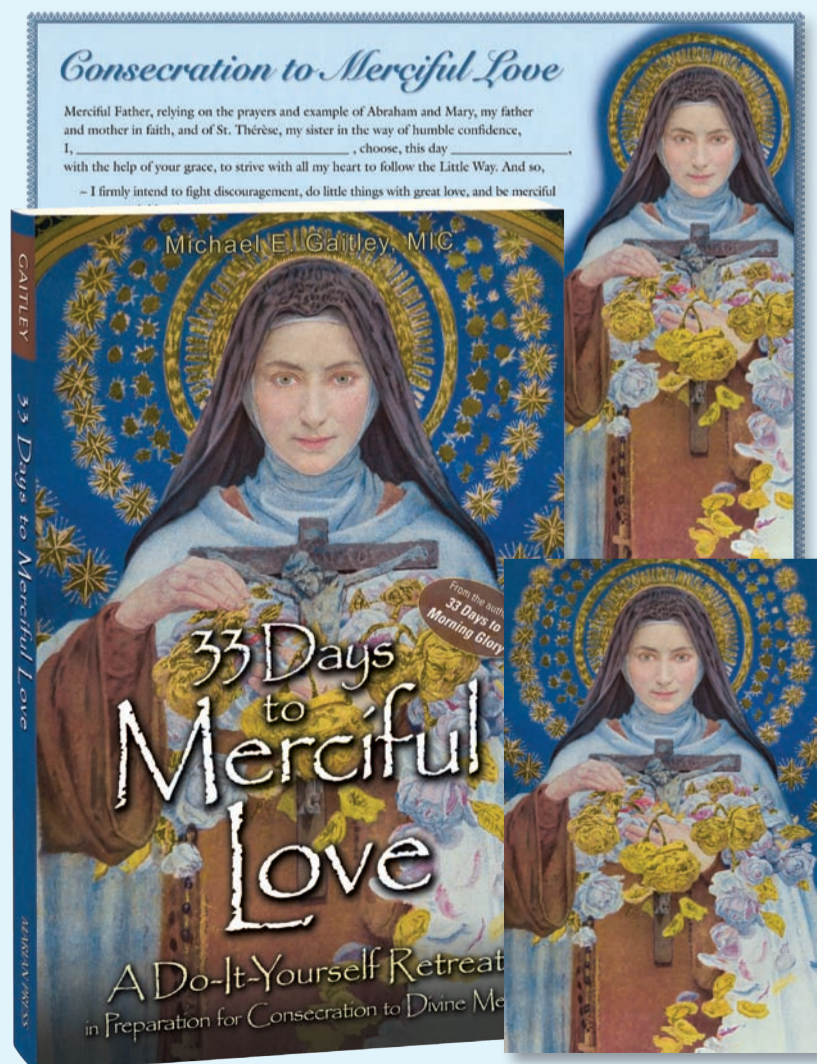
love through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We need to pass on God's mercy through prayer. Let me end on that point.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is not over. The need for mercy has not ended. The work of helping God save the world in our time has maybe even just begun — but the good news is that it has, indeed, begun. There is hope. I mean, we had a great victory on Divine Mercy Sunday. Now we just need to see this thing through. Put differently, just as the gritty soldiers who landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, had to battle all the way to the heart of Nazi Germany, so also we Marians and Marian Helpers can't let up now. We need to keep marching on.

Alright, so listen up for your marching orders:

To all you Marian Helpers who so generously responded to my last article by making the consecration to Divine Mercy, I make this ardent, heartfelt appeal: *Pray*. Pray like never before. Pray that God's great work of saving and healing our hurting and broken world will come to completion. Pray that for the sake of Christ's sorrowful Passion, God will have superabundant mercy on us and on the whole world. Pray specifically for our country as well. Yes, let us fervently pray for mercy while it's still the time of mercy.

MH



B30-33SET • \$14.95

# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you missed making your consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year, don't worry. There's still time to consecrate yourself during this Jubilee Year. This set contains Fr. Michael Gaitley's newest book, *33 Days to Merciful Love*, a consecration prayer card, and a consecration certificate.

To order, visit [ShopMercy.org/b30](http://ShopMercy.org/b30)  
or call 1-800-462-7426.

# Too late to CONSECRATE?

**W**e've received a lot of phone calls and emails from people who missed the consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday this year. Either they heard about it from a friend or family member or saw the consecration on TV and they're asking, "Is it too late for me to consecrate?"

The answer is "No!" It's not too late! It's still the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and there are many more dates to consecrate yourself to Divine Mercy. Of course, you can make the consecration at any time, even after the Year of Mercy, but it would be particularly beautiful to do it during this special year and on a Marian or mercy-related feast. Above is a chart with starting dates for some of the principal remaining feasts this year.

So order your copy of *33 Days to Merciful Love* today, pick a starting date, and celebrate the Jubilee Year by consecrating yourself to Divine Mercy! It's certainly not too late.

By the way, it's also not too early to renew your consecration. In other words, if you consecrated to Divine Mercy already but would like to do it again, you're more than welcome. In fact, a Catholic archbishop recently reported that he made his consecration this past Divine Mercy Sunday, and then he immediately began his preparation to consecrate a second time! So, if you decide to renew, you're in good company.

START OF THE 33 DAYS	FEAST DAY	CONSECRATION/ FEAST
May 27	Sts. Peter and Paul	June 29
June 13	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	July 16
June 19	St. Mary Magdalene	July 22
June 29	St. Alphonsus Liguori	Aug. 1
July 12	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Aug. 14
July 13	The Assumption	Aug. 15
July 20	Queenship of Mary	Aug. 22
Aug. 3	Blessed Teresa of Calcutta	Sept. 5
Aug. 6	Nativity of Mary	Sept. 8
Aug. 10	Holy Name of Mary	Sept. 12
Aug. 13	Our Lady of Sorrows	Sept. 15
Aug. 29	St. Thérèse of Lisieux	Oct. 1
Sept. 2	St. Faustina Kowalska	Oct. 5
Sept. 4	Our Lady of the Rosary	Oct. 7
Sept. 13	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	Oct. 16
Sept. 19	St. John Paul II	Oct. 22
Oct. 18	Christ the King	Nov. 20

Also, if you already made your consecration, it's not too late to invite a friend or family member to make the consecration during this very special year if they haven't done so already. What better way to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy than by entrusting oneself completely to the tender and merciful love of God? What better gift could you give to a loved one than to help him or her obtain a special grace of Divine Mercy this Jubilee Year? MH

# FAITH WITH WORKS

Pope Francis has called upon the faithful to “reawaken” our consciences through engaging in works of mercy this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which began Dec. 8 and concludes on Nov. 20. The following is the latest in our year-long series highlighting people who are making a difference in the lives of others.



## Tragedy inspires ‘logical response’

**N**ews reports announced the tragedy. The body of a teenage snowboarder was recovered at Vancouver Island’s Mount Washington Alpine Resort on Dec. 22.

Plus or minus a few quotes from loved ones, including the parish priest, the bare facts about the life and death of Reid Kyfiuk were all there. And those bare facts are as follows:

He was 15, from the western Canadian town of Saanich.

He enamored his family. He had many friends.

He loved playing hockey and other sports.

His body was found deep in a hole in the snow on an ungroomed section of the ski resort.

And, inspired by the launch of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which began exactly two weeks prior, the Kyfiuks made a specific plea through an attentive media drawn to the singular nature of this pre-Christmas tragedy. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) published the plea thusly:

“His older brother asked people to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Reid’s memory.”

A dozen more outlets in Canada and the United States followed suit, some even including web links for [instructions on praying the chaplet](#), an intercessory prayer the Lord gave to the world through St. Faustina.

Add to that the millions of people who viewed and/or shared the plea on Facebook and Twitter, and the result is arguably the single most successful effort ever to disseminate the chaplet to an audience unlikely to have heard of it otherwise.

“People kept asking what they could do,” said Reid’s father, Andy. “The most logical response was to ask people to pray the chaplet. I said, ‘I want the chaplet to be said in Reid’s name, and I want it to go viral. I want Reid to be made a saint for making everyone pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.’”



Andy Kyfiuk with his son Reid.

## In the Hour of Mercy

When Reid’s father later matched information from the ski resort’s lift reports to those increasingly frantic minutes and hours after Reid went missing, he’s certain that he and two of his daughters were praying the chaplet at the moment of Reid’s death.

“... *have mercy on us, and on the whole world* ...” they prayed as they made their way up the chairlift at 3:17 p.m. in search of Reid.

It had been a lovely day of skiing. Six inches of fresh powder. Andy and five of his six children even took a group photo at the summit to mark the occasion. As fog settled in, they figured they’d do maybe just one or two more runs and then pack it in, go back to the chalet, relax, and then go for supper. As usual, they skied as a group, and, as usual, if they were to get separated, they would meet at the bottom of the hill.

Reid — an experienced snowboarder — got separated.

A search-and-rescue team recovered his body at about 11 p.m. The coroner said he didn’t suffer and did not sustain any large injuries.

“Now we’re just a bunch of broken Christians trying to heal,” Andy says. “He was our youngest. He was a great man, a really nice boy. We did fun stuff. We loved to sit, the two of us and his mom, Denise, and talk about life, science, human nature, how to apply God in our lives.

“We were just so close. And he’s most likely with God now in Heaven. He’s had so many people praying for him. But we don’t have him, and it burns. It burns like hot metal.”

## A time of great mercy

The Kyfiuks don’t consider themselves “super Catholics.”

“We’re a regular group of people,” Andy says “But I think we’re being called to do the Lord’s work during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.”

Indeed, the family has since heard of fallen-away Catholics who answered the family’s plea for prayers and who returned to the Church as a result. They’ve heard of non-Catholics praying the chaplet simply

out of respect for Reid and the family.

“The chaplet is about asking God to take care of our world,” Andy says. “The Lord said to St. Faustina that He will deluge us with His mercy. This being the Year of Mercy, we figure God’s mercy is being poured out on the world. That’s attractive to everyone, to people of all faiths. [The chaplet] isn’t threatening, or in your face. You’re just trying to do what’s best for the world. People don’t take offense to that, and it’s not complicated.”

Father William Hann, the Kyfiuk family’s parish priest, said Reid told him a month before his death that he longed to make a difference in the world.

At great cost to his loved ones — he has.

Andy says, “If God stood before him and said, ‘Reid, you could go to Heaven now and make the world a better place, or you could stay on earth now, but the benefits won’t be that great,’ he’s the kind of boy who would’ve looked God straight in the eye and say ‘I’d rather not have to be given options, but if I have to, I’ll take Option A.’”

MH

— Felix Carroll



Religious education students present Fr. Scott Euvrard with a paper chain representing their works of mercy.

## One million? Let's count on it

**O**ne million works of mercy in one year! That's the challenge Fr. Scott Euvrard posed to his parishioners at Holy Family and Star of the Sea parishes in Amesbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts, for this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Before the start of the Jubilee on Dec. 8, he and his staff discussed ways their parishes could celebrate this Year of Mercy. They initially proposed doing 10,000 works of mercy. But, as they started to think about all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, Fr. Scott thought "go big or go home." That's where the idea of one million works of mercy was born.

"We wanted to make all our parishioners, young and old, aware of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and then suggest ways they can make the practice of these works a habit and a reality in their own lives," said Fr. Scott.

Father Scott's intent in this effort is to make a visible link between the works of mercy and the Catholic faith — more specifically, to the Eucharist. "At the center of the faith is the Mass," he said, "and central to the Mass is the Eucharist. We want to connect the works of mercy so that they flow from the Eucharist. How can we bring the love of Christ that we receive at the Eucharistic table into the lives of people who aren't here?"

Before the parishes began their sizable task, some brainstorming and catechesis were in order. Father Scott hosted several meetings for children and adults, and from there, the parishioners set about their task at the start of the Jubilee Year. His parishes, which comprise a total of 1,800 households, had reached a combined 30,000 works of mercy by the end of March. Many parishioners are doing works of mercy every day on their own, Fr. Scott said. Others are doing group projects, such as serving meals to the needy.

Both parishes are seeing an increase in the monthly food collection. Some of the religious education students are now doing research on giving drink to the thirsty and are trying to find ways to provide clean water in other parts of the world. Father Scott even tells the parishioners he visits in nursing homes that they can participate in the works of mercy, too, by praying for the dead.

And the million works of mercy idea is spreading! Parishes as far away as Hawaii are joining in. Father Chris Malatesta, pastor at St. Agnes parish in Dalton, Massachusetts, heard about what Fr. Scott was doing and asked if he could "borrow" this idea. He then approached his fellow pastors and presented the idea of trying to do one million works of mercy collectively in Berkshire County. It was warmly received.

So far, St. Agnes in Dalton, which has 1,700 families, has recorded 33,000 works of mercy. And 15,000 of these works of mercy are from the children! He said many parishioners are helping out in the food pantry — many more than normal. Parishioners are also visiting nursing homes and the homebound. His deacon recently organized a special Mass at Berkshire County Corrections.

"This is the most exciting thing I have ever done as a priest," Fr. Chris said.

When he overhears children asking their parents at the grocery store, "Is this a work of mercy?" he knows this effort has captured their imaginations. "This million works of mercy effort is bearing fruit because people are talking about it and it is touching hearts." MH

— Joan Lamar

► **You, too, can perform the works of mercy!**  
**'You Did It To Me' shows you how.**

# One family's gift of presence

“I don't have other gifts, but taking care of terminally ill babies is the gift I have,” said Cori Salchert, a registered nurse and perinatal bereavement specialist from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Cori does not think of herself as “extraordinary,” but because of her many years of nursing experience working with terminally ill infants, she's not afraid to step in and care for them. “My heart resonates for these babies,” she said.

Cori and her husband, Mark, who have eight biological children, ages 14-27, have fostered and/or adopted several “hospice” babies — babies with life-limiting or terminal diagnoses whose parents had given up guardianship because of the situation.

This vocation began after Cori was struck with an autoimmune disease five years ago, which required multiple surgeries and produced other complications. Because of her illness, she left her job as a nurse, but Cori asked the Lord to use her affliction for good. The Lord took her up on the offer. In 2012, when the possibility of fostering hospice infants presented itself, the Salcherts didn't hesitate.

First, they fostered Emmalynn, who lived only 50 days — 50 beautiful, heartbreaking, priceless, privileged days. Emmalynn was missing the right and left hemispheres of her brain.

“It might be a little presumptuous to say, but we didn't bring her home to *die*,” Cori said. “She could have done that in the hospital.” Rather, they took Emmalynn home to *live*. They held her, loved her, and brought her everywhere. She lived more in those 50 days than many people live in their lifetime, Cori said.

On the last day of Emmalynn's life, Cori tried to feed her, but her body rejected the feeding tube. “So, I just told my children, ‘She is getting ready to go to Heaven. She doesn't need this food.’” As the evening progressed, the child's limbs were getting colder. Cori put on a big, fuzzy bathrobe and held Emmalynn in “kangaroo care” — skin to skin, as close

as possible. The infant's breathing grew shallower as the night progressed, and from her chest could be heard a clicking sound, often a telltale sign that the lungs are giving out.

“It was after midnight, and I hadn't heard a click, and I just lifted her up out of my robe and she was gone,” Cori said. “She stopped listening to my heartbeat and she picked up God's heartbeat.”

Cori believes what Emmalynn needed in those 50 days of life was the gift of her family's presence, and that's what the Salcherts feel called by God to provide for other babies as well.

More than a year ago, they adopted Charlie, now 22 months old, who was born with neurological impairments caused by a lack of oxygen in the womb and at birth. Charlie breathes by means of a ventilator. He must be fed through a tube. The machinery that keeps him alive is complicated.

“I have to know how to troubleshoot this machinery,” Cori said. Initially, this was a daunting task, but she soon heard God telling her in her heart that she'll do just fine — and that

when Charlie is ready to die, God will take over from there.

Cori tells her children that the first food Charlie might eat on his own may be in Heaven — and it would be the most awesome food ever!

Four of Cori's and Mark's biological children live at home and help with Charlie's care. The kids climb into bed with him. They do their homework with him. They talk to him and comb his hair.

The family's work of mercy isn't corporal alone — it's spiritual. They pray for his healing.

“He might not be healed this side of Heaven, but he most definitely will be whole and well on the other side of life,” Cori said.

MH

— Joan Lamar

► **Feel called to minister to the sick and dying like Cori? Doctor Bryan Thatcher tells you how.**



Cori Salchert with Charlie.



# ‘Father’ figure

## What’s our responsibility to youth?

By Fr. Andy Davy, MIC

“I will be with you always even until the end of time” (Mt 28:20). Don’t we all want to hear this? Don’t we all want to know that we are not alone in this life, that we have a Father who loves us and wants to always walk by our side?

On Dec. 8, the Church entered into the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, with its theme: “Merciful like the Father.” What a beautiful theme to meditate on, especially for those of us called to be priests, who are given the title of “Father”! I would love to share, especially with my brother priests, some thoughts on how we are being called to be “Merciful like the Father” specifically towards the youth.

In his book *Divine Mercy: A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI* (Marian Press), Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the *John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy*, defines Divine Mercy as “God’s love reaching down to meet the needs and overcome the miseries of His creatures.”

One of the key areas many of our young people struggle with today is not having quality time with their biological

fathers. Our young people hunger to be noticed by their dad, to feel his presence and protection as they walk through the difficulties of life. Numerous studies have confirmed the deep wounds suffered by children when their father is not present (or even emotionally present) in their lives.

Mercy heals. Presence heals. And as spiritual fathers, we priests are blessed with the opportunity to bring a gift of healing to our young people — simply by being present to them.

But presence is more than “just showing up” at the official times. A young person can easily read whether we are simply going through the motions. We have to show up precisely when we don’t have to be there.

Get to know the youth of your parish. Don’t see them merely as “the future of the parish,” but rather as a key part of the Church present. Make every effort to spend that unofficial time with them and go to where they are. Visit them at their youth events, their sports events, their theater productions. When the youth group goes



laser tagging, well ... grab a laser rifle and jump on in! Black is the best camouflage! These things can seem trivial, but they can be powerful conduits for deeper future conversations about the faith and about life in general. By showing a genuine interest in what is important to their world, you will be viewed by young people as a father who really wants to be with his children. And they will respond!

I personally began to understand the importance of this ministry of presence to our young people during my Marian novitiate year. During that year, I had been given George Weigel's book *Witness to Hope*, which chronicles the life of St. John Paul II. As I read, I was so moved by the description of how Karol Wojtyla — the future pope — understood his call when working with the young people from a local university.

Saint John Paul II “thought of his chaplaincy as a ministry of ‘accompaniment,’ a way to ‘accompany’ these students in their lives,” Weigel writes. “The chaplain’s presence couldn’t be limited to the sanctuary and the confessional. A really effective chaplaincy, he believed, had to be present to these young lives in the world as well as in the church.”

Weigel writes of one youth who said, “We felt completely free with him, without any burden. His presence led us to express ourselves. While he was among us, we felt that everything was all right. ... We felt that we could discuss any problem with him; we could talk about absolutely anything.”

One word emerged in my heart as I read these inspiring words: “Fatherhood.” In a very simple way, Fr. Karol Wojtyla touched the hearts of these young people by being present to them, not only in a liturgical and sacramental way (though that’s still essential), but in the midst of the world, too. This way of being a father present to his children brought forth an interior confidence and security that allowed these young people to experience true freedom.

This Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us priests work at being truly present to our young people. Let us learn to listen to them and to be sincerely interested in what is going on in their lives. Though we may be torn in a million directions in parish ministry, let’s not forget that our youth are looking at us from a distance wondering if their spiritual father notices and truly cares about them.

Just as with St. John Paul II, a little “accompaniment” can go a long way! MH

*Father Andy Davy, MIC, is pastor of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Illinois.*

## Peter speaks to youth

*The participation of recent popes in World Youth Days (WYDs) is a terrific model of the sort of accompaniment Fr. Andy talks about. Here, the three popes who have taken part in WYDs speak to youth on how to be Christian in the modern world:*

Young people of every continent, do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace. To succeed in this demanding project of life, continue to listen to His Word, draw strength from the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance. The Lord wants you to be intrepid apostles of his Gospel and builders of a new humanity — **St. John Paul II, Message for World Youth Day 2000.**

Dear young people, listen closely to the words of the Lord, that they may be for you “spirit and life” (Jn 6:63), roots which nourish your being, a rule of life which likens us — poor in spirit, thirsting for justice, merciful, pure in heart, lovers of peace — to the person of Christ. Listen regularly every day as if he were the one friend who does not deceive, the one with whom we wish to share the path of life. Of course, you know that when we do not walk beside Christ our guide, we get lost on other paths, like the path of our blind and selfish impulses, or the path of flattering but self-serving suggestions, deceiving and fickle, which leave emptiness and frustration in their wake — **Pope Benedict XVI, Welcoming Ceremony with Young People, WYD 2011.**

The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God; there we find his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe. Dear young people, let us entrust ourselves to Jesus, let us give ourselves over to him (cf. *Lumen Fidei*, 16), because he never disappoints anyone! Only in Christ crucified and risen can we find salvation and redemption. With him, evil, suffering, and death do not have the last word, because he gives us hope and life: he has transformed the Cross from being an instrument of hate, defeat and death to being a sign of love, victory, triumph and life — **Pope Francis, Address, Way of the Cross with Young People, WYD 2013.** MH

— Chris Sparks



FR. KAZ CHWALEK, MIC

# All in the family

## A look at Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation

**T**he Vatican on April 8 released the long-awaited apostolic exhortation on marriage and the family by Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). This 260-page document offers reflections on every aspect of the divine gift of the family and how the Church can provide better pastoral care for those in broken marriages, all in the light of God's merciful love. *Amoris Laetitia* has also stirred up plenty of controversy in the media and challenged the pastoral perspectives of many in the Church (as the Holy Father predicted it would in its "Introduction").

To get a better understanding of what the debate is all about, we spoke with Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers.

**Dr. Stackpole, Pope Francis has been criticized in some circles (and praised in others) for allegedly "watering down" the Church's traditional teachings on contraception and homosexuality, and the teaching barring divorced and remarried Catholics from receiving Holy Communion before they have repented and rectified their marital situation. Is that a fair criticism of *Amoris Laetitia*?**

No, I don't think so. For one thing, it ignores the other 250 pages or so of profound teaching. You cannot understand what someone is trying to say by taking their words out of context. Those other 250 pages, and indeed the whole *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, are the context within which we must understand what the Holy Father is trying to say to us.

Consider our Lord's parable of the Prodigal Son. We all have heard it said many times, no doubt, that this story shows just how merciful our heavenly Father really is. In the parable, the father sees his son coming home while his son is still a long way off. But the father does not just wait patiently at his front door for his son to return. Rather, the Gospel says that his heart went out to him: He ran down the road to meet him, embraced him, and showered him with kisses (see Lk 15:20).

**This reveals how much God our Father longs to recover and restore His long-lost sons and daughters.**

Yes! At the first sign of our (still imperfect) penitence, He pours out His forgiveness and grace upon us from His merciful Heart.

**As you know, the motto for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is an echo of the central message of this parable: “Merciful Like the Father.”**

And, in effect, Pope Francis has been asking us to notice something else about the parable. After all, if the father had run down the road to meet his son, then he must have accompanied his son on the walk back to their home and back to the banquet that awaited them. What the Pope is asking us to do in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, in a nutshell, is to carefully consider how we can best accompany Catholics who are divorced and remarried, or using contraceptives, or struggling with same-sex attraction, on their own journey back home to the Catholic Church, and back to the family banquet of the Holy Eucharist. Of course, many of these Catholics have a grossly inaccurate understanding of what the Church actually teaches on such family issues, and many also have only a limited and imperfect penitence for their sins to start with. They are still “a long way off,” as the parable puts it, even if they are sincerely trying to find their way home.

**So the question is, how can the Church and her pastors walk with them on their journey home? And what part can the Sacraments — especially Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist — play in this whole process?**

These are difficult questions. To begin with, we certainly need to be willing to “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15), as Pope Francis has done in *Amoris Laetitia*. Let’s be clear: In this document the Pope does not reject the truth of traditional Catholic teaching on the sanctity and indissoluble bond of marriage. He also does not deny Catholic teaching on the conjugal act as the celebration and seal of complete mutual self-giving between the spouses — a mutual self-gift that must always include the gift of their fertility to each other. And the Pope also does not deny that only a natural marriage between a man and a woman can express the authentic complementarity and openness to new life of a true marriage covenant. *In fact, all that is covered and clearly reiterated in this document!* Our Lord has promised to pour out a super-abundance of graces from His merciful Heart, especially through the Sacraments, upon all those who seek to live out these beautiful dimensions of the mystery of the family. Remember the 150 gallons of new wine that He provided for the Wedding Feast at Cana! The Holy Father is simply asking us to consider how those graces also can be shared with the many broken and wounded Catholic marriages and families of our time, to help heal and restore them.

**In chapter 8 of *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis touches upon the most controversial issue that emerged at the Synod of Bishops last October: **whether there are circumstances in which divorced and remarried Catholics might be welcome to receive Holy Communion. What does he say on this subject?****

He wrote that we cannot automatically assume that every divorced and remarried Catholic is living in an unrepentant state of mortal sin. In some extreme cases there are extenuating circumstances that might make their sins venial rather than mortal and might leave open the possibility of the reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

**For example?**

A Catholic woman with three young children is abandoned by her husband, and she finds she’s unable to provide for her children on her own, much less to raise them properly in a fatherless home. Then “Mr. Right” comes along, promises to provide for her and her family and to be a good stepfather, so in hope and desperation she agrees to marry him. Should she suffer a total ban on the reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion — even if it seems unrealistic now to expect her to be able successfully to arrange to live as brother and sister with her new partner? — after all, her new “husband” might not be willing to put up with it, and might leave her and the kids. What is the best and most merciful response to such a couple and their children, the best way for the Church to accompany them on their journey as penitents toward living the full truth about marriage and the family? And what part does the indissoluble marriage bond play in God’s plan to sanctify human hearts on the road to Heaven — even in difficult family circumstances? Again, these are very tough issues, which is why the Pope and the bishops have been agonizing over them recently!

**To be clear, the Pope’s recommendations on the pastoral care of such Catholic families in extreme circumstances are not definitive papal teachings on faith and morals, right?**

Indeed, so a Catholic can, in good conscience, respectfully disagree with them. Given that the Holy Father is the successor of St. Peter, however, even his pastoral directives merit from us every benefit of the doubt. There is so much profound teaching on marriage and the family in *Amoris Laetitia*. We run the grave risk of missing the wedding banquet of wisdom he has prepared for us by quibbling about the condiments!

MH

# MEET CASIMIR WYSZYNSKI

By Chris Sparks

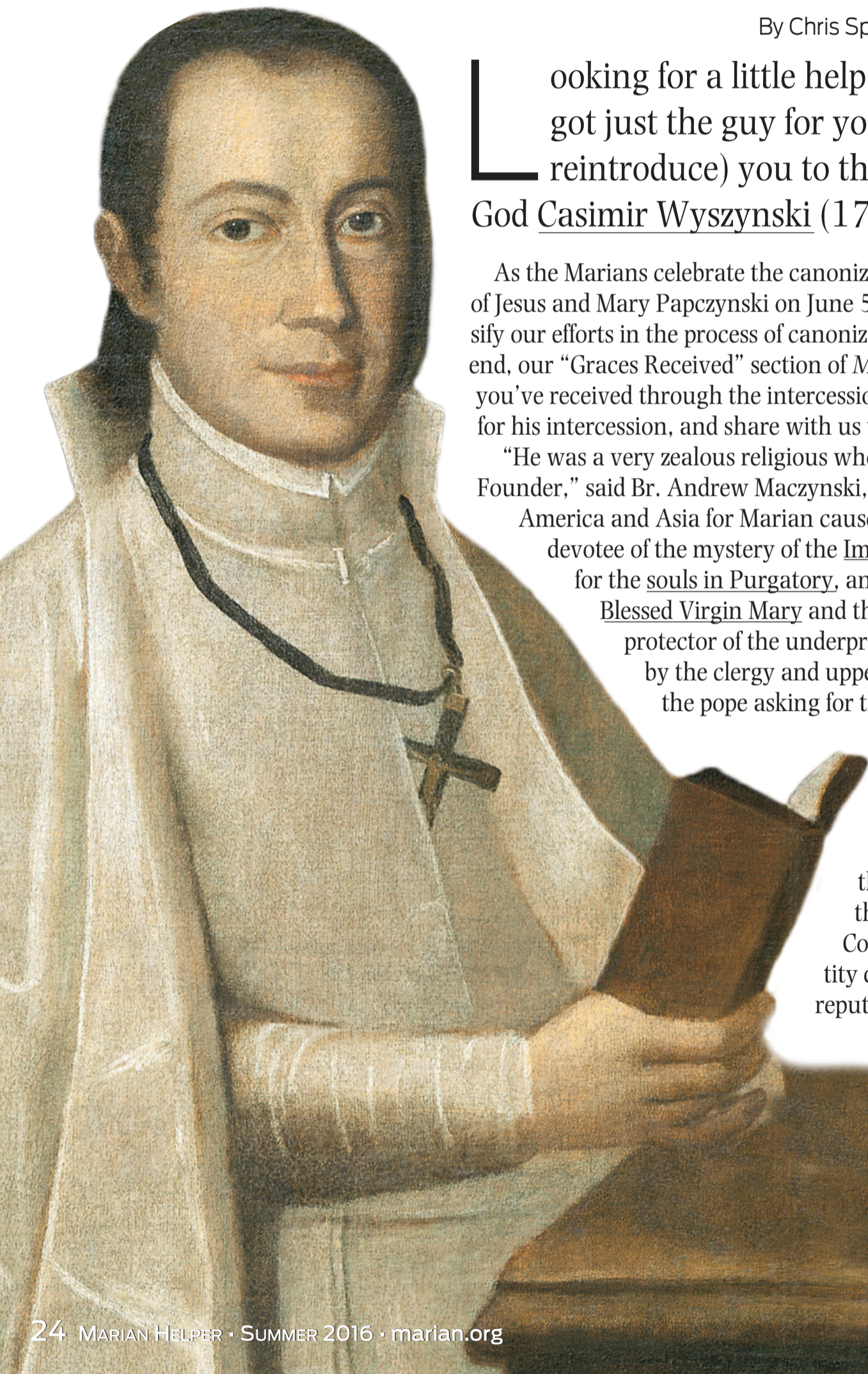
Looking for a little help from Heaven? We've got just the guy for you. Let us introduce (or reintroduce) you to the Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski (1700-1755).

As the Marians celebrate the canonization of Marian Founder Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski on June 5 ([see page 8](#)), we also look to intensify our efforts in the process of canonization for Venerable Casimir. To that end, our "Graces Received" section of *Marian Helper* will now include graces you've received through the intercession of Venerable Casimir. Pray to him for his intercession, and share with us the results.

"He was a very zealous religious who deeply loved his Order and its Founder," said Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, vice postulator in North America and Asia for Marian causes of canonization. "He was a great devotee of the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, intercessor for the souls in Purgatory, and promoter of the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Blue Scapular. He was also a protector of the underprivileged, especially peasants abused by the clergy and upper-class people. He sent a petition to the pope asking for the special protection of those people by the Church."

## Brotherly tension

Originally hailing from a family estate called Jeziora Wielka in the vicinity of Warsaw in Poland, this Marian Father of the Immaculate Conception was known for his sanctity during his lifetime and has gained a reputation for being a powerful intercessor



since his death.

Born in 1700, the year before Marian Founder Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701) died, and given the baptismal name “Januarius Francis,” the future Marian started his life as a layman, becoming a civil servant and setting himself on track for secular success.

But he was also a man of deep faith. When he learned that his older brother, Joseph, had helped relax religious discipline within the Marian Congregation and sided with a group seeking to disband the Order entirely, Januarius Wyszynski felt great remorse. He asked to be admitted to the Marians, saying, “I want to make up for what my brother ruined; I ask you for the habit.” He was admitted and took the name “Casimir of St. Joseph.”

## A demand for holiness

From the very beginning of his religious life, he distinguished himself in his zeal for evangelical perfection, ardent devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, and active care for those suffering injustice. He also worked for the beatification of the Marian Founder.

During his time as general superior, he made a number of visits to the different houses of the order. In one letter announcing a visitation, dated June 1, 1739, he gave a beautiful summation of the essence of Catholic life, saying, “From the Marians whom I intend to visit I am anxious to learn whether love of God and neighbor is practiced in your life. God is loved when His commandments are kept and the Rules of our Holy Institute are observed, when sinful desires are curbed, avoiding those things which lead to sin. Fraternal charity is evident

when we wish no one harm. Where charity is lacking anything we do is without merit; where charity flourishes everything serves for holiness.”

Venerable Casimir helped the Marians grow in merit, number, and geographic reach, accepting candidates to the Order from all over Europe. In 1753, he went to Portugal and founded the first Marian monastery in that country at Balsamao. He died there on Oct. 21, 1755.

His reputation for sanctity has endured for 200 years, especially in Portugal during periods when the Church was persecuted and, at one point, the exile of the Marians from the country. Even today, Portuguese Catholics still call him “Santo Polacco,” the Holy Pole.

## An intercessor awaits

While we take this opportunity to celebrate the canonization of Father Founder, let’s also remember another outstanding Marian Father, Venerable Casimir Wyszynski. Let’s ask his intercession in all our needs, trusting that, through the mercy of God, we may receive special graces and even miracles through

the prayers of our brother in Christ. And let us pray for the beatification of Venerable Casimir so that the whole Church may better know him and benefit from his powerful prayers. MH

*For a Venerable Servant of God Casimir prayercard (B30-BCWP), call 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through the intercession of Fr. Casimir Wyszynski, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. E-mail: [graces@marian.org](mailto:graces@marian.org).*

### PRAYER FOR A SPECIAL GRACE THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF THE VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD CASIMIR

O God, Merciful Father, in the heart of Your servant Casimir, You aroused great zeal for accomplishing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; deign to grant to me (us) through his intercession the grace for which I (we) implore You: [say your intention here]. Amen.

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

*We recommend this prayer  
be complemented by Confession  
and Holy Communion.*

## EXCERPTS FROM VENERABLE CASIMIR’S WRITINGS

“God made me your superior not to lord it over you, but to be one of you, an understanding father, a brother full of respect, a leader, a concerned shepherd watching over you.”

•••

“Are we living and acting according to this Spirit? Are we seeking vain glory? Are we manifesting the spirit of poverty and peace? Is our fraternal charity marred by jealousy? Do your local superiors, your spiritual guides, correct you in a gentle manner?”

•••

“We want to be sure that no one strays from the faith, fails in fraternal charity and peace. We want to see whether we all strive to promote God’s glory and due honor to his Holy Mother, the Immaculate Mary. We are anxious to verify that the Rule and Statutes and decrees of our chapters are faithfully observed. We will do all we can to look into these matters with every solicitude, that order be preserved in the monastery. We desire that the Spirit of truth and joy touch all of you.”

# ADD YOUR NAME!

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, create a lasting remembrance in prayer at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Honor a loved one or proclaim your own devotion to Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

The name(s) you submit will be inscribed on the brass mural of the Divine Mercy.



Visit [MemorialsOnEdenHill.org](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org)  
or call (413) 298-1382.



*DIVINE MERCY MATTERS*

WEBINAR

WATCH NOW

# Our open (Holy) Door policy

**P**ope Francis has urged the faithful to go on pilgrimage during this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy and receive the graces the Lord wants to give us.

“So bring them here,” said Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. “As anyone who has visited the Shrine before will say, God is present here.”

Indeed, bring your family and friends to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and enter through our Holy Door of Mercy.

The Jubilee Year, which began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 2015, and ends on the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 20, features a special plenary indulgence (the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin). Pope Francis wanted to make the indulgence as widely available as possible, so in this Jubilee Year, a Holy Door has been opened in every cathedral around the world, as well as in particular shrines, including right here.

Whether you are coming to the Shrine for one of our special feast days or celebrations in the next few months, or you just want to take a drive up to the Berkshires one day this summer or fall, don't miss out on this opportunity to go on pilgrimage and enter through our Holy Door of Mercy!

Here is a listing of special events planned at the Shrine, running from early May through early October:

- **May 29** — Corpus Christi, Solemnity of the Most Holy

Body and Blood of Christ; Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by Corpus Christi Procession; 2 p.m. Mass

- **June 3** — Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 2 p.m. Mass; Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priests, starting at 5 p.m.

- **June 4** — Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Masses

- **June 19** — Father's Day; Blessing for Fathers at Masses, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- **June 25** — Filipino Day

- **July 9** — Portuguese Day

- **July 16** — Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Investment with the Brown Scapular, 2 p.m. Mass

- **July 23** — Grandparents Day

- **Aug. 6** — 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Encuentro Latino

- **Aug. 15** — Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Marian Week begins

- **Aug. 22** — Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Marian Week ends

- **Aug. 26** — Commemoration of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 2 p.m. Mass

- **Aug. 27** — Vietnamese Day

- **Sept. 11** — Mercy for Souls Conference

- **Sept. 17** — Polish Day

- **Oct. 5** — Feast of St. Maria Faustina; 11 a.m. talk on St. Faustina; 2 p.m. Mass

For more information, call (413) 298-3931 or visit [TheDivineMercy.org/shrine](http://TheDivineMercy.org/shrine).

MH



## ¡Sea el invitado de honor de Jesús Misericordioso!

### National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Saturday, Aug. 6

Spanish Mass • Marian Procession • Confessions  
Children's Events • Music • Food • Gift Shop  
[LaDivinaMisericordia.org/encuentrolatino](http://LaDivinaMisericordia.org/encuentrolatino)

All events will be in Spanish. For more information or to register a bus, call (413) 298-1328.

Encuentro Latino  
2016

# Coming Aug. 8, 2016!

## Father Donald Calloway's new book: *Champions of the Rosary*

The upcoming book by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, bestselling author of the classic conversion story *No Turning Back*, tells the powerful story of the history of the rosary and the champions of this devotion!

The rosary is a spiritual sword, containing the saving mysteries of the God-Man. It has the power to conquer sin, defeat evil, and bring about peace. *Champions of the Rosary* presents a complete history of this spiritual weapon, 26 of its greatest heroes, detailed accounts of its victories, and 26 color images of the rosary in art.

Here's an excerpt on a contemporary champion of the rosary:

In late 2014, Jesus appeared to a Catholic bishop in Nigeria and instructed him that the rosary was the weapon to be used to overcome radical Islam. Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of the diocese of Maiduguri, Nigeria, claims that one evening, while he was praying his rosary, Jesus appeared to him holding a sword. During the vision, Jesus extended the sword toward the bishop. When the bishop went to take the sword from Jesus, it was miraculously transformed into a rosary! Once the bishop had the rosary-sword in his hands, Jesus looked at him and said three times, "Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone!" ... In many of his interviews, he repeats his vision and informs his listeners of his interpretation of the vision in the following words: "As soon as I received the sword, it turned into a rosary. I didn't need any prophet to give me the explanation. It was clear that with the rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram."



## Champions of the Rosary

The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon

By Donald H. Calloway, MIC

Visit [marian.org/champions](http://marian.org/champions) to receive a reminder when the book is available.



Evelyn with Fr. Bill Hayward, MIC.

# WITH GREAT LOVE

I've been meeting many Marian Helpers lately who find creative ways to incorporate acts of mercy into their lives. Since we're in an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, it seems appropriate to highlight one such example. Her name is Evelyn, a life-long member of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii Parish in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

I just recently consecrated myself to Divine Mercy in the manner of St. Thérèse's "Little Way" (following the retreat in Fr. Michael Gaitley's newest book, *33 Days to Merciful Love*), and Evelyn epitomizes for me St. Thérèse's instructions for holiness — of doing little things with great love.

She inspires and humbles me.

Long before Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year — with the biblical theme to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" — Evelyn decided to assign herself little acts of mercy, such as "not having that slice of pizza I wanted, as a penance," she explained.

But eventually, she wanted to do *bigger* things with great love. Namely, to incorporate acts of mercy with her devotion to Our Blessed Mother and to Divine Mercy — and not only prayerfully, but financially. Not having the amount of funds to make a contribution the size she wanted, she added an additional step to her longstanding acts of sacrifice: She would take the cash she had saved by foregoing treats and set it aside to accumulate until she had the amount she wanted to donate.

When I pushed a bit, Evelyn admitted that her "small penances" go beyond giving up the occasional slice of pizza. She has also given up dinners out, buying new shoes that weren't a necessity, and even vacations. (She insists she still does allow herself the occasional slice of pizza. "I did not give them *all* up," she laughed.)

She quietly handed the cash she had saved to her pas-

tor, Fr. Bill Hayward, MIC, and asked him to deliver it to Fr. Joseph, MIC, when Fr. Bill came to Stockbridge for Divine Mercy Sunday. The funds — to be used in the Marians' work to spread Divine Mercy — "have taken years of penances to build up," Evelyn said.

What perseverance!

Recently, at Mass here at the Marian Helpers Center, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC (the current "Fr. Joseph, MIC," director of the Association of Marian Helpers) shared the hard truth that one does not earn "full credit" for performing acts of mercy if they are done with the intention of receiving glory or praise for one's self or our actions. In this, too, Evelyn outshines many of us. She eschews all credit. She wanted to give the funds anonymously. But since I am responsible for managing such gifts, it was I who called to offer Evelyn our gratitude. She was stunned by my call and embarrassed when I said how inspired I was by her example.

"Maybe I'll tell some of my friends," she said, "and we can start a movement!"

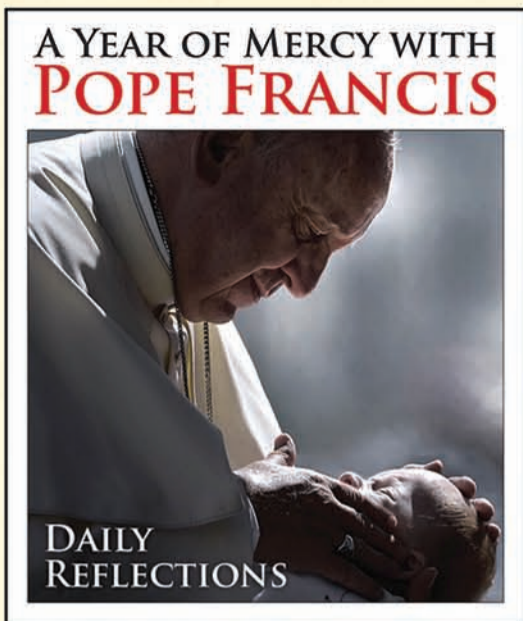
I called her back an hour later to request one more little thing to do with great love. I asked her if it would be OK if I share her acts of mercy with some of my friends: you!




---

Mary Flournoy is a donor relations officer for the Marians. Contact her at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263; [helpers@marian.org](mailto:helpers@marian.org); or (413) 298-1381. Visit our website: [marian.org/plannedgiving](http://marian.org/plannedgiving).

# Gifts of Faith



## A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis

Spend a few minutes every day with the Holy Father as you read a brief meditation by him, followed by reflection questions to help you ponder and receive God's love. *A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis* will instruct you in God's unfailing mercy, strengthening and equipping you to fulfill God's plan for your life. Paperback. 384 pages.  
B30-YMPF \$16.95

## Divine Mercy Luggage Tag

A great gift for the travelers in your life. Flexible, 2" x 3 1/2" plastic tag includes lanyard for attaching to luggage.  
B30-LDMT \$1.95



## Miraculous Medal Cuff Bracelet

During an apparition to St. Catherine Laboure, the Blessed Virgin Mary promised that all who wear a Miraculous Medal will receive great graces. This stunning silver-toned metal bracelet features a Miraculous Medal center surrounded by beautiful scrollwork and blue cat eye beads.  
B30-MMCB \$12.99



## Blue Madonna Pendant

Bring Our Blessed Mother with you in a 1-inch-long, silver-toned pendant accented in blue. Includes an 18-inch stainless steel chain. Comes gift-boxed.  
B30-PBMC \$14.95

## Miraculous Medal Cord Wrap Bracelet

Bright blue cord and silver-toned Miraculous Medals combine to create a stylish reminder of (and source of) grace available from Our Blessed Mother. Adjustable; one size fits most.  
B30-MMWB \$5.95



## Baptism Triptych

Commemorate the beginning of a baby's life of faith with this lovely triptych. It can be displayed on a shelf or bureau as a reminder of the occasion. Measures 3 1/2" x 5" when open.  
B30-BTT \$11.95

# Resources for the Jubilee Year of Mercy



## ◀ The Divine Mercy 101 Kit

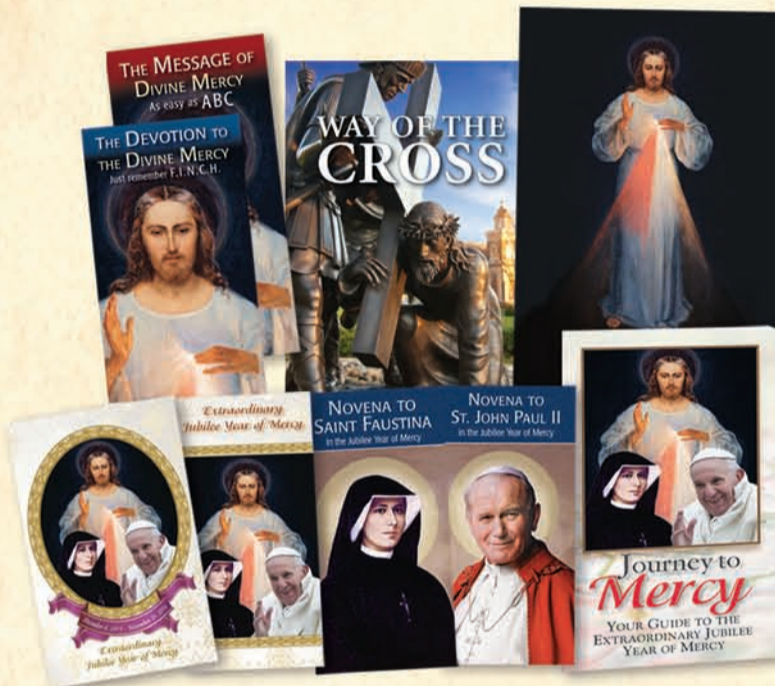
Includes everything listed here, PLUS everything in the Jubilee Year Pack (below)! B30-DMKIT: \$29.95

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

## Jubilee Year Pack ▶

B30-JUBPK \$7.95 – if purchased separately

- Journey to Mercy: Your Guide to the Jubilee Year of Mercy booklet
- Way of the Cross booklet
- 5" x 7" Vilnius Divine Mercy Image canvas print (exclusive)
- Pamphlets: Novena to St. Faustina; Novena to St. John Paul II; Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; Devotion to the Divine Mercy; The Message of Divine Mercy
- Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy prayercard



## Holy Door Divine Mercy Triptych



The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica adorns the outside of this Divine Mercy triptych. It measures 3 1/2" x 4 5/8" when open and features an Image of Divine Mercy, the Immaculate Conception, and Pope Francis. A perfect gift! B30-HDT: \$8 each Also available in Spanish B30-HDTS

## Divine Mercy Pocket Statues



Blessed Virgin:  
B30-BVPS

Divine Mercy:  
B30-DPS

Keep inspiration at your fingertips with these pocket statues. They are the perfect size (1 3/4") to carry with you throughout the day in your purse, pocket, or backpack and to remind you to pray "Jesus, I trust in You" or ask Mary's intercession. Made of zinc-alloy metal. \$4.25 each

## Order Info

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders;  
2-4 weeks for mail orders. Operators are available  
(Eastern Time): Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

**toll free:** 1-800-462-7426 **shop online:** [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org)

**mail:** Order Department

Association of Marian Helpers  
Stockbridge, MA 01263

**Checks payable to:** Association of Marian Helpers

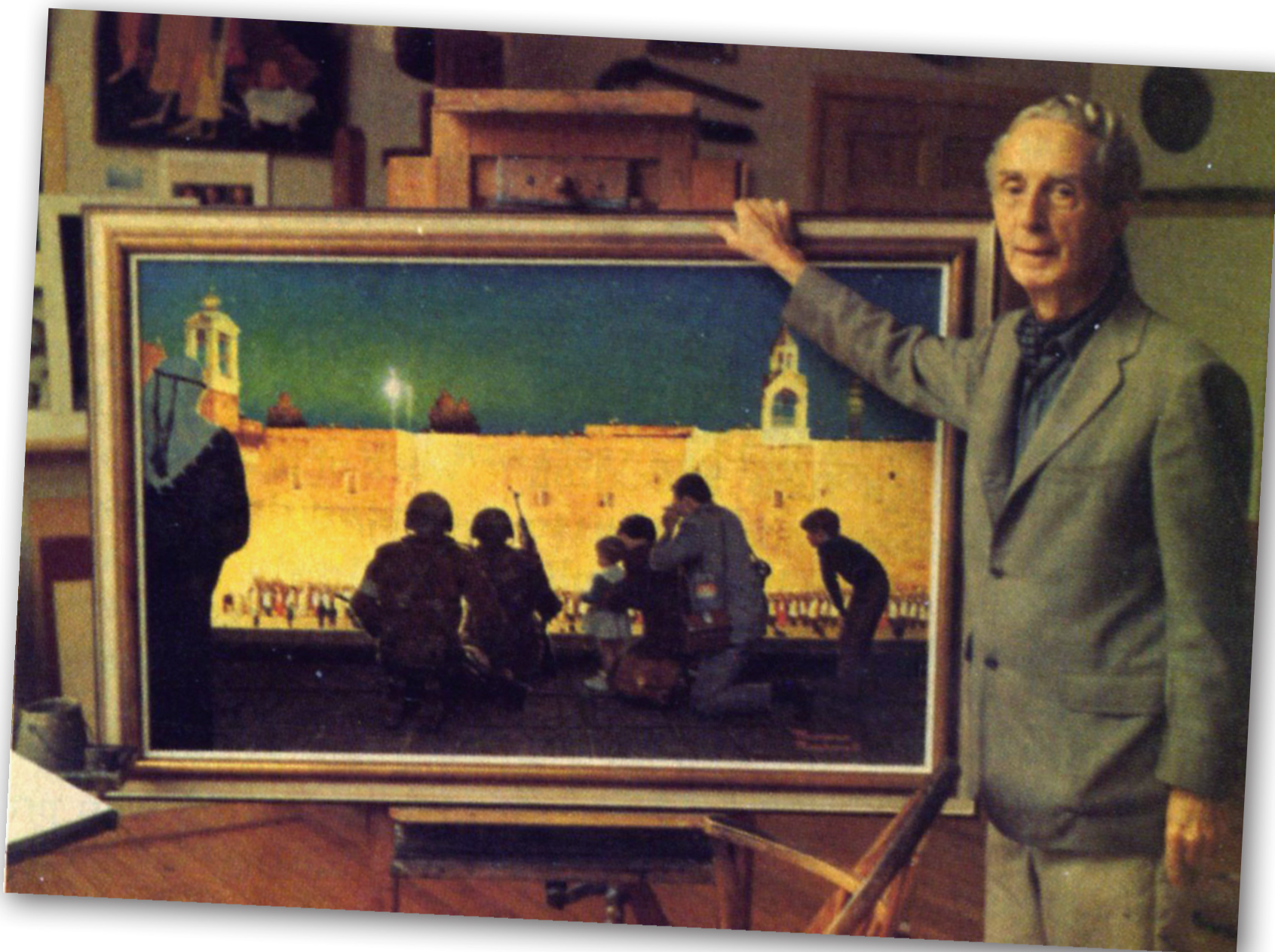
**Postage/handling: U.S.**

**Canada**

\$ .01-\$20. . .	\$5.25 p/h	... \$6.75 p/h
\$20.01-\$35. . .	\$7.25 p/h	... \$9.50 p/h
\$35.01-\$75. . .	\$8.50 p/h	... \$11.25 p/h
\$75.01-\$125. . .	\$9.50 p/h	... \$13.50 p/h
over \$125 . . .	10% of subtotal	15% of subtotal

**Order toll-free: 1-800-462-7426**

**Shop online: [ShopMercy.org/b30](http://ShopMercy.org/b30)**



*From 1953 until his death in 1978, the famous painter Norman Rockwell lived just down the hill from the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge. For many of his most famous artworks, he recruited locals to serve as his models. Such was the case for his 1970 painting “Christmas in Bethlehem” — only this time, he called upon the assistance of the Marians. Our January-May 1987 issue of Marian Helpers Bulletin used “Christmas in Bethlehem” for the cover image. The following explanation of the painting comes from that issue:*

Norman Rockwell made it a rule never to fake anything, always to use, if possible, authentic props and costumes. When he decided to paint the religious procession at midnight in Bethlehem Square he didn't have far to go. He just came up to our monastery here on Eden Hill and asked us to help him with vestments worn by prelates and clergy. Three of our priests went down to his studio and posed for him. With the stroke of a brush he made Fr. Francis Duda, MIC, a bishop leading the procession, bending low, because the door leading into the church is constructed so low that all who go in must stoop to enter. Father Joseph Grisans, MIC, stands out tall and stately, all six feet of him. Father Gerald Ornowski, MIC, cross-bearer, represented the younger priests and clerics. Now all that the artist had to do was multiply his models and stretch out the procession.

When the painting was done, Mr. Rockwell called us for a final check to see if any corrections were needed to be made. That's when this photo was taken.

The painting reflects the uneasy “peace on earth” which still eludes mankind as evidenced by the presence of armed soldiers. It is supremely fitting that everyone should approach the Infant Jesus in a posture of humility. And it is our prayer that Heaven's gift of peace may truly reign in your heart. MH

# Live the call!



## **Brother Gabriel Cillo, MIC:**

I am thankful that God's Providence led me to the Marians. First, Fr. Donald Calloway's conversion story brought down walls in my heart. Then, as I discerned my vocation, I was given St. Faustina's *Diary*. It sparked a love for Divine Mercy in me, and it led me again to the Marians. I read about their charism, and it fit into my heart. I was shocked to see that Fr. Calloway is the Marian's vocation director. I thought to myself, "It's that priest!" Now, I will be ordained a transitional deacon in the fall.

## **Marian Helpers Tim and Edith:**

The Marian priests and brothers have been there for us when we needed affirmation of God's goodness and mercy. The misconception of who God is ranks as one of the biggest challenges facing our times. True to their charism, the Marians are revealing who God really is — Love and Mercy. We're grateful to be able to contribute to the Marian seminary fund, and we love that their formation includes the generous spirit of St. Francis, the mind of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the heart of the Blessed Mother.

## **Attend a retreat**

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

The next retreats will be:  
Sept. 30-Oct. 2  
Nov. 25-27  
Dec. 2-4

## **Learn more**

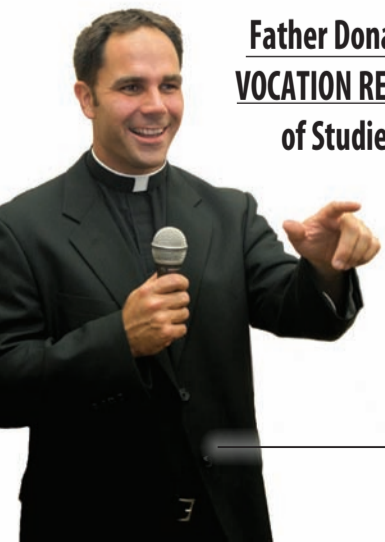
Email: [vocations@marian.org](mailto:vocations@marian.org)  
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806  
Visit: [marian.org/vocations](http://marian.org/vocations)

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

## **Support**

**Want to help the seminarians?** See [marian.org/b30](http://marian.org/b30) or call (413) 298-1382.

We have more than 30 men preparing for religious life and the priesthood.



# Live the call!



## **Brother Gabriel Cillo, MIC:**

I am thankful that God's Providence led me to the Marians. First, Fr. Donald Calloway's conversion story brought down walls in my heart. Then, as I discerned my vocation, I was given St. Faustina's *Diary*. It sparked a love for Divine Mercy in me, and it led me again to the Marians. I read about their charism, and it fit into my heart. I was shocked to see that Fr. Calloway is the Marian's vocation director. I thought to myself, "It's that priest!" Now, I will be ordained a transitional deacon in the fall.

## **Marian Helpers Tim and Edith:**

The Marian priests and brothers have been there for us when we needed affirmation of God's goodness and mercy. The misconception of who God is ranks as one of the biggest challenges facing our times. True to their charism, the Marians are revealing who God really is — Love and Mercy. We're grateful to be able to contribute to the Marian seminary fund, and we love that their formation includes the generous spirit of St. Francis, the mind of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the heart of the Blessed Mother.

## **Attend a retreat**

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

The next retreats will be:  
Sept. 30-Oct. 2  
Nov. 25-27  
Dec. 2-4

## **Learn more**

Email: [vocations@marian.org](mailto:vocations@marian.org)  
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806  
Visit: [marian.org/vocations](http://marian.org/vocations)

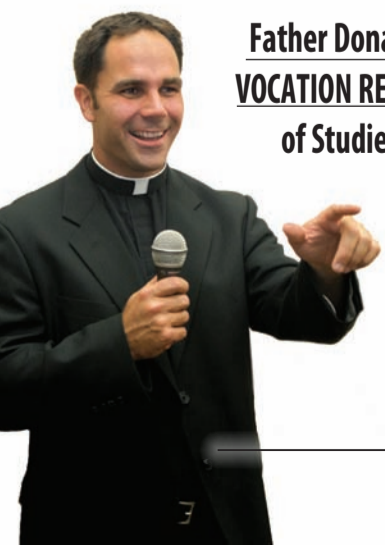
Write: **Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**  
**Vocation Director**  
**Marian Fathers of the**  
**Immaculate Conception**  
**515 Belleview Blvd.**  
**Steubenville, OH 43952**

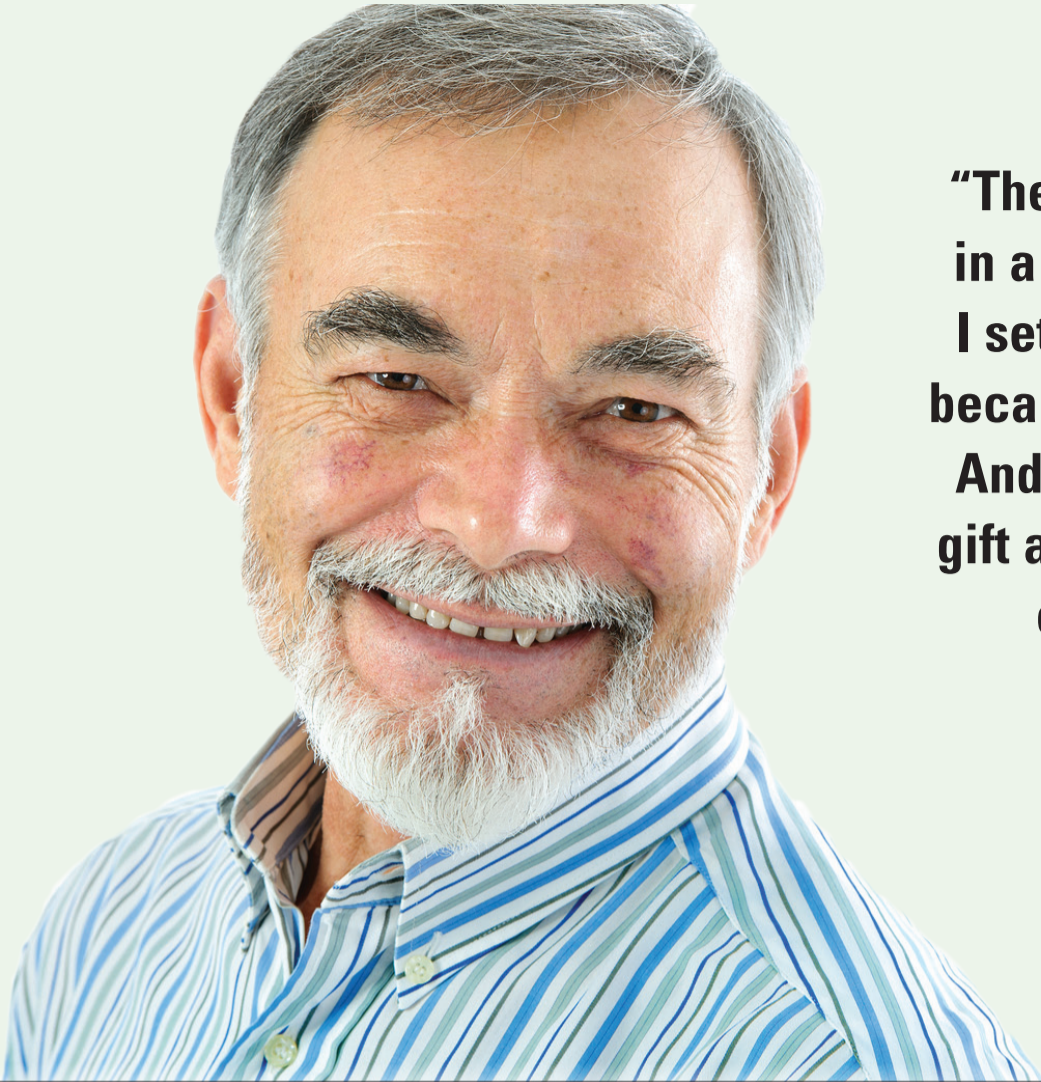
## **Support**

### **Want to help the seminarians?**

To donate, visit  
[marian.org/give/seminarians](http://marian.org/give/seminarians)  
or call (413) 298-1382.

We have more than 30 men preparing for religious life and the priesthood.





**“The Divine Mercy message is a refuge in a world that is full of hurting people. I set up a gift annuity with the Marians because I want to support their outreach. And I am pleased to have the generous gift annuity payments, which provide me enough to cover my fixed bills.”**

— Roy, a Marian Helper

You can help the Marian Fathers spread the message of Divine Mercy and receive secure gift annuity payments for your lifetime.



Ellen Miller explains gift annuities.

Sample of gift annuity rates for one-life:

<b>Age 60 .... 4.4%</b>	<b>Age 75 .... 5.8%</b>
<b>Age 65 .... 4.7%</b>	<b>Age 80 .... 6.8%</b>
<b>Age 70 .... 5.1%</b>	<b>Age 85 .... 7.8%</b>

For a personalized illustration of gift annuity benefits, contact Ellen Miller at

**(413) 298-1380 or [helpers@marian.org](mailto:helpers@marian.org)**