

Summer 2018

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

marian.org

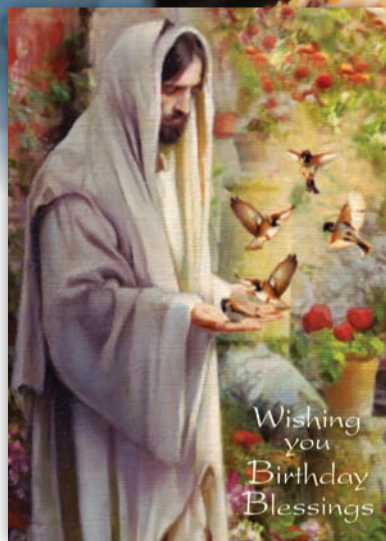


LIGHTS, CAMERAS,
MERCY!

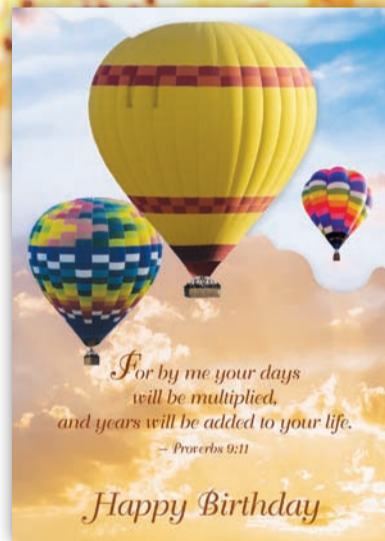
**FOR
BIRTHDAYS:**
An enrollment
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It's a blessing!



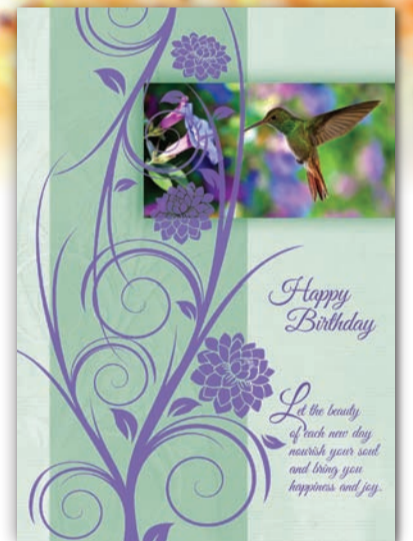
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Fr. Joseph
explains
enrollments.



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

12 LIGHTS, CAMERAS, MERCY!

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy was briefly closed to pilgrims but open for the ages for two days this spring with the filming of a new Divine Mercy Chaplet that will soon be aired daily on EWTN.

10 A honeymoon with the Bridegroom

When Rosa and German Palma were planning their honeymoon, they wanted to be with Christ in the Eucharist. They chose the National Shrine. Considering everything they'd been through, it only stands to reason.

18 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us

Her feast day is approaching. What makes it — and the novena leading up to it — so popular among Marian Helpers? Father Jim McCormack, MIC, explains.

20 From Siberia, with love

Father Walter Gurgul, MIC, one of the Marians' cherished seniors who lives and ministers at the National Shrine, tells how his happy childhood shattered with the Soviet invasion of Poland.

22 Maybe you've seen him on film?

He's now an Emmy Award winner. Father Donald Calloway, MIC, continues to remind the world of the Blessed Virgin Mary's knack for bringing people to Christ.

24 'They're wrong!' Love them anyway

We Marian Helpers, we devotees of the Divine Mercy, we Catholic Christians, are not allowed to blindly or blithely accept the sins of "our side" as necessary in order to counter the greater evils of "their side."

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ON THE COVER: The Marian Fathers, in conjunction with EWTN and the Flynn family, film a new version of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to replace the one that's been airing daily on the global Catholic network for more than a decade. Brother Mark Fanders, MIC, photo

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 © 2018 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: editorial@marian.org website: marian.org

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



Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our
lay ministries.
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1-866-895-3236

Evangelization Team

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to speak at your parish.
(413) 298-1349
parishmissions@marian.org

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Intercessory Prayerline

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Websites

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TheDivineMercy.org
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Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Established in 1944, 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.

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

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



YouTube



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

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US GOD'S MISSION THROUGH US

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

- Thirteenth of the Month Club: marian.org/13th
- Friends of Mercy: TheDivineMercy.org/friends
- Holy Souls Sodality: 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

- to support a particular ministry or need: marian.org/give
- to create a memorial or tribute: 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.

THANK GOD FOR THE CHAPLET

One particular passage in St. Faustina's *Diary* has helped guide my priestly ministry. Referring to the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Jesus tells her, "Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation" (687).

Boy, was He right about that. How could I not recommend the Chaplet? Jesus promises "great graces" to souls who pray it (*Diary*, 848). I hear time and time again from people how Jesus keeps these promises.

I also continually hear from many people who have experienced conversions to the faith after channel surfing and coming upon the Chaplet on EWTN filmed here at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy back in 2006. With that in mind, earlier this year, as we were making plans for Divine Mercy Sunday, we started talking about the possibility of once again filming the Chaplet, using the latest technology in image quality, lighting, and audio.

Since EWTN's production crew would already be here for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 8, might they consider sticking around for another couple days for a Chaplet filming? EWTN loved the idea.

As you will read in the cover story, the filming went extraordinarily well. I thank EWTN, the many Marian Helpers who participated, and the Flynn family. We all

look forward to seeing the results, which will begin airing sometime within the next year.

Interestingly, during breaks in the filming, I was asked two questions I often seem to hear regarding the Chaplet. The first has to do with the words, "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved

Son ..." Lay people ask, "How can I offer God to God?" In other words, how can a layperson offer Jesus' infinite sacrifice of love to the Father?

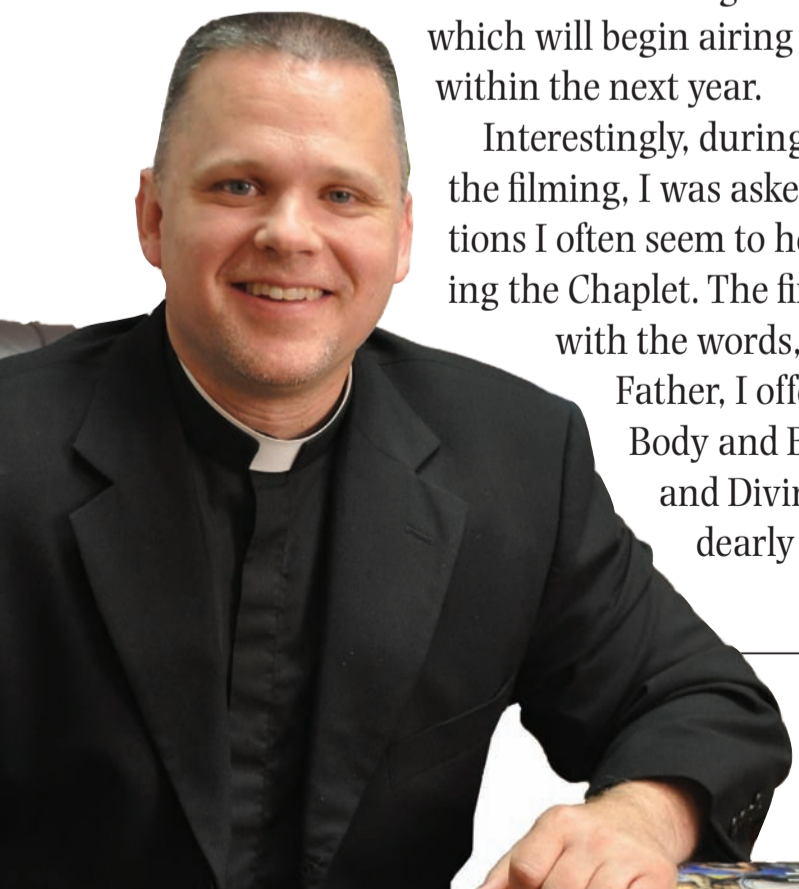
The answer is: By virtue of our Baptism, we share in the three offices of Christ, which are priest, prophet, and king. Prophets teach, so all of us are called to teach our loved ones in the ways of the Lord. We are "kings," meaning we are to govern our families, our minds, and our bodies in holiness. And we also share in what's called the "common priesthood" of Christ, which, as the *Catechism* explains, is "exercised by the unfolding of baptismal grace — a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit" (1547). As such, the laity is called to offer spiritual sacrifices. So when you pray the Chaplet, you are offering the sacrifice of the divinized humanity of Christ to the Father for the whole world.

The second question is: "If I cannot make daily Mass, what's the next best thing I can do?" The answer is, pray the Rosary and pray the Chaplet. Here's why. Remember, the Mass breaks into two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Word is meditation on Scripture. What is the Rosary? Meditation on Scripture. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the priest offers sacrifice. What is the Chaplet? It is you exercising your common priesthood and offering sacrifice.

Therefore, if you miss daily Mass, pray the Rosary and the Chaplet. Then, make a spiritual communion, saying to Jesus, "Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart."

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.



JUST AN 'AVERAGE JOE'

Joe Risi's testimony was among several at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday. Here are all the talks:



He was miraculously healed through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and has since kept his word to dedicate his life to spreading the news of Christ's promises made to the world through St. Faustina. Meet Joseph Risi, a husband, a father of five, and a real estate developer from Laguna Beach, California, who has helped the Marians build our mission in Rwanda.

OK, Joe, what's your story?

I was raised by a single mother who would always be giving me devotionals. "Say this novena and you'll sell your house or pray the Rosary or wear a scapular," she'd say. In 2000, the year of the canonization of St. Faustina, she gave me a prayercard of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and said, "Joey, you've got to say this Chaplet. It's a powerful prayer." I put it on the dashboard of my truck, just one more thing my mom had given to me. It stayed up there probably three months until it blew out the window. I didn't think any more about it. The next year, just after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, I was driving home from Phoenix. Along the way, I had to pull over to take a bathroom break. I went behind some bushes, and right there on the ground was a prayercard — the exact iteration of the Chaplet prayercard my mother had given to me, with the image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and the promises Jesus makes to those who pray the Chaplet. The hair on the back of my head stood up.

What are the chances?

With God, it's 100 percent. He put it there for me to find.

What was your spiritual life like at the time?

I taught Sunday school. I patted myself on the back for being a good Catholic.

I sense you were about to get spiritually whacked upside the head.

Yes, indeed. A few weeks after finding the prayercard, I was feeling dizzy and wound up going in for blood tests. On Nov. 4, I learned I had hepatitis C. That was before there was any real good treatment for it, and by the time it was diagnosed, the disease had taken hold pretty well. In a month, I lost 25 pounds. I was 46 years old, and I was dying. I fell into a dark depression where you can't think, can't process anything. It was a real pity party. But I prayed the Chaplet, even as I questioned if God was real. I reached out to the Association of Marian Helpers and started ordering the Chaplet prayercard. I sent it everywhere asking for prayers. I sent out more than 100,000 of them, which the Poor Clares helped distribute.

In December, I had missed the daily Mass at my own parish one morning and went to another parish in Santa Barbara. Afterward, I followed the priest back to the sacristy. His name was Fr. Martin Brewer. He was 80 years old at the time. I said, "Father, I'm dying." We talked for

awhile, and he gave me the Anointing of the Sick. Afterward, he said, “Joe, I’m a Jesuit. I’ve been in the Army. I thought I’d experienced everything a priest could see and hear. But something happened to me while I was administering the Sacrament that I’ve never experienced as a priest.” He asked me if I knew what a locution is. I said I did. He said he heard a voice telling him two things regarding me. The first was that I was to spend my life spreading devotion to the Divine Mercy, and the second thing was that I was going to be healed.

And you were.

I was. Five doctors and four blood tests all confirmed my disease. I was preparing to undergo an experimental treatment, but on Jan. 26, I got a call from UCLA Medical Center. They asked me to come back to do yet another blood test because they were confused by what they were seeing. I took another blood test, and the disease was gone. I hadn’t had any medical treatment yet. It was just gone, and it’s never been back, and doctors cannot explain it.

But you can explain it.

God healed me through the Chaplet.

Why you?

Well, I know it wasn’t some sort of honorarium. I didn’t “deserve” to be healed. I think He is using me as an example of how His mercy is available to all. I represent your average Joe.

How has it changed you?

Some things haven’t changed. I still remain a sinner. But what has happened was, I was the one “leper” out of 10 who was healed, and I continue to talk about it and proclaim it, sometimes to one person, sometimes to crowds of people. He woke up my heart, and so I tell people about Divine Mercy all the time. I would bet that numerous souls’ lives have changed as a result of the testimony I’ve given. But in many ways I’m still the same Joe Risi, maybe a little bit better version.

So what is the most important point you try to get across to people?

Basically, there were times in history when the world had fallen into such disrepair that a devotional had been given to the world to help with its salvation. We’re in a time right now where the devil’s grasp has gotten stronger, and I see the Divine Mercy message as a last call for acceptance of Christ’s mercy. Jesus said to St. Faustina, “Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 699). He’s giving us a choice.

MH

— Felix Carroll

IN BRIEF

“God has blessed us so much,” **Ken Clough** would say while volunteering at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. “Nine children, 15 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. So Joanne and I are here to give back.” On March 14, those children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren surrounded Ken as his beloved wife, **Joanne**, was laid to rest. Joanne suffered a heart attack on March 2, from which she never recovered. For over 17 years, Ken and Joanne volunteered almost every weekend at the Shrine, greeting and escorting pilgrims. Joanne had said she first felt inspired to volunteer because of Pope St. John Paul II’s message to the world at St. Faustina’s canonization in 2000. “He asked us to turn to God’s mercy to answer the problems of our time,” she said. “So we decided that we wanted to help those who visit the Shrine. We have a chance to get to know all the pilgrims, and pray for them. In turn, they pray for us.” May Joanne’s soul rest in peace. And God bless you, Ken.



Ed Kender, a Marian Helper from Clermont, Florida, wrote to tell us how he’s enjoyed the videos on marian.org from **Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC**. He mentioned that two years ago he lost his corporate job due to downsizing, “but God has sustained my faith. I decided to pray at least one Rosary each day, read at least three Gospel chapters each day, and pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet, too.” He also said he practices random acts of kindness on a daily basis. He thanked us for our work and gave praise to the Holy Spirit. Thanks for writing, Mr. Kender!



By the grace of God (or as they say in German, “*Die Gnade Gottes*”), German speakers will soon have access to the cenacle program manuals written by **Dr. Bryan Thatcher**, director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), an apostolate of the Marian Fathers. Over the years, the manuals have also been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Ukrainian. The number of cenacles has grown to more than 3,000 worldwide. Speaking of worldwide evangelization, Dr. Thatcher heads to the Solomon Islands this summer to start cenacles at the request of **Archbishop Christopher Cardone**. Dr. Thatcher is also putting together another shipping container full of donated medical supplies that EADM will send to poor hospitals in the Philippines. Interested in having Dr. Thatcher speak at your parish? Call EADM at 1-877-380-0727.

FACES OF MERCY

Ariel Pagala

Garnerville, New York

My family and I were struggling years ago, financially. We were still living in the Philippines at the time, in a small apartment. We had three young children, and one day a beggar was going door to door asking for help, and people were shooing him away. He came to my door, and I gave him a cup of rice with noodles. He was so grateful, he blessed me, and this was a turning point in our lives. That week, my wife was called in for an interview for a nursing job in the United States, and they wound up offering her the job. We read in the Gospel that whatever we do to the least of our brothers, we do to Christ Himself (see Mt 25:40). People were telling that beggar to get out. I gave him food. I gave Jesus food.



Cheryl Messier

Easthampton, Massachusetts



About seven years ago my sister brought my mother and me up to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and we went into the Oratory and prayed, and I experienced a spiritual healing. I had been suffering from depression, and it was lifted. I started praying more — the Rosary, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. I started reading books about the faith. Now, I don't go to church because I *have* to. I go because I *want* to. I *want* to pray. I still worry. I still get hurt. It hasn't turned me into a saint, but I offer it up for souls in need. Each morning, I wake up and offer my day to God. In the past, I was just miserable, where now, I offer any pain or suffering to the Lord. I'm happier as a result.

Jocelyn Obedoza

Washington Township, New Jersey

I bring all my problems to Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and He blesses me with His graces. I tell people that, in order to receive His graces, they have to make prayer an important part of their daily life. The more you do that, the more God reveals Himself to you and lets you know He's listening.





Mirna Vasconcelos
Everett, Massachusetts

My prayer is that He make me more faithful — to make me the person He needs me to be, to make me more gentle, especially with the people I don't know. And I pray for all the people who don't believe.



Sonia Miller
Queens, New York

In the last five years I've had both open heart surgery and cancer. I never had doubts about God. I just said, "God, if this is Your will, I'll take it." I've learned His mercy is always available, but sometimes you have to work for it. You have to be prayerful and be good to people and live your obligation as a child of God, working for your salvation and the salvation of the world. Pray, pray, pray. Never stop praying. MH

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Big news for all devotees of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**. The Vatican announced on March 3 that the Church will celebrate Mary's role as "Mother of the Church" every year on the Monday after Pentecost. Pope Francis added the memorial to the Roman Calendar to encourage growth in "the maternal sense of the Church" and in "genuine Marian piety," wrote Cardinal Robert Sarah, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in the decree establishing the memorial. The cardinal noted that the "joyous veneration given to the Mother of God by the contemporary Church, in light of reflection on the mystery of Christ and on his nature, cannot ignore the figure of a woman, the Virgin Mary, who is both the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church."



Speaking of Marian devotion, **Fr. Michael Gaitley**, MIC, has seen to it that parishes in Ireland had free access to his best-selling *33 Days to Morning Glory: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Marian Consecration*. This came about following talks he gave in Ireland last October. Though he provided free copies of *33 Days* at his talks, people at the venues still made generous donations, all of which Fr. Michael decided to put toward printing 100,000 more copies of *33 Days* (in Ireland and for Ireland). He made the free copies available in April through Veritas bookstores. "The faith of the Irish people was unlike anything I've ever experienced," Fr. Michael said.



This past April 15 marked the 40th anniversary of the lifting of the ban on the Divine Mercy revelations of **St. Faustina** by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under **Pope Blessed Paul VI**. The ban, which St. Faustina herself had prophesied (see *Diary*, 378), was originally imposed in 1959 due to faulty translations of her writings. As Fr. Joseph, MIC, wrote in these pages 40 years ago, "At present we are making plans to reintroduce the distribution of the literature and pictures connected with this devotion."

Literally hundreds of millions of pieces of Divine Mercy literature and images have been printed here in Stockbridge since 1978, helping to make Divine Mercy the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church.



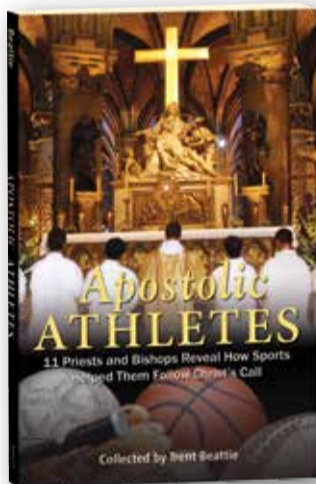
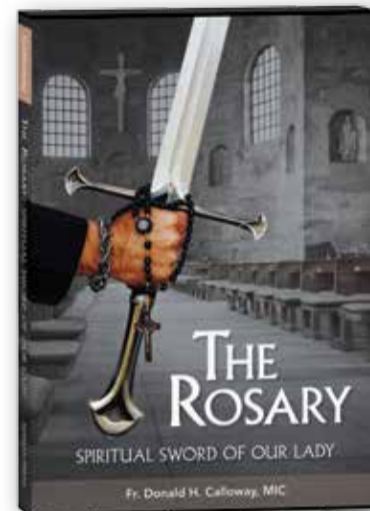
Incidentally, Blessed Paul VI, who oversaw the sweeping reforms of Vatican II in the 1960s, will be canonized in late October, following the **Synod of Bishops** on the topic of young people, faith, and vocational discernment.

These selections answer the needs of an array of different stages of life: discerning a vocation; welcoming a child; praying for those who have died. In all circumstances, though, we can (and should!) always turn to Our Lady and the Divine Mercy, particularly through the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

THE ROSARY: SPIRITUAL SWORD OF OUR LADY DVD

BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

In this innovative presentation, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, explains the power of Our Lady's favorite devotion: the Rosary. Surveying the entire history of the Rosary, including its greatest victories and champions, Fr. Calloway will make you want to unsheathe the spiritual sword of the Rosary and become a champion of the Rosary yourself. \$9.99. **B38-RDVD**



APOSTOLIC ATHLETES: 11 PRIESTS AND BISHOPS REVEAL HOW SPORTS HELPED THEM FOLLOW CHRIST'S CALL

COLLECTED BY TRENT BEATTIE

Here are the stories of 11 men who fought for athletic glory — and then found their lives being turned to God's service as priests and bishops. Catholic journalist Trent Beattie has assembled a collection of testimonies destined to inspire and challenge young people to both play and pray, to compete to be the best and to surrender everything to God. The contributors' pursuit of excellence in athletics eventually brought them face to face with Goodness itself — God Almighty — and led them to fall in love with Christ's Bride, the Church. \$14.95. **B38-ATHL**

PURGATORY: A GUIDE BOOKLET

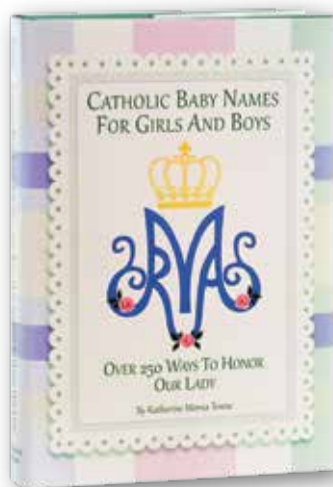
This pocket-sized overview of the doctrines and practices of the Church regarding the Holy Souls in Purgatory equips you to explain and defend one of the greatest works of mercy. Compact and accessible, the booklet draws on Scripture, Tradition, and the teachings and testimonies of the saints, such as St. Stanislaus Papczynski and St. Faustina Kowalska. See how *you* can help the Holy Souls. \$3.99. **B38-SOULS**



CATHOLIC BABY NAMES FOR GIRLS AND BOYS: OVER 250 WAYS TO HONOR OUR LADY

BY KATHERINE MORNA TOWNE

Noted blogger and Catholic baby name expert Katherine Morna Towne has created a useful, informative, and illuminating guide to Catholic names inspired by Marian doctrine, devotions, and apparitions. This lovely and accessible guide is a must-have for all families and an interesting window into the history of our faith. Perfect for all Catholic couples welcoming children (and even for teens trying to decide on a Confirmation name)! \$19.95. **B38-BABY**



A VATICAN NEIGHBOR

There's a church near St. Peter's Basilica in Rome that all Divine Mercy devotees should know about called Santo Spirito in Sassia (Holy Spirit in Saxony), located one block over from the Via della Conciliazione, the wide street that leads to St. Peter's Square. Within the church is the diocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, the brainchild of none other than St. John Paul II.

Monsignor Jozef Bart, a Polish priest, has served as the rector since 1993. As a young man discerning the priesthood, he had an opportunity to meet Pope John Paul II, who suggested that he study for the Diocese of Rome.

Already by the 1980s the Polish pontiff saw the need for a shrine to the Divine Mercy in Rome, and he felt that a Polish priest would have the cultural sensibility to shepherd the new venue. Since the beatification of St. Faustina in 1993, members of her religious community, the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy, began to serve at the Shrine as well.

At the beginning of January 1994, the church was designated as a Divine Mercy Spirituality Centre. A side altar, which had been formerly dedicated to the Holy Trinity and to St. Philip Neri, is now dedicated to the Divine Mercy. A large, beautiful Divine Mercy Image, painted in 1994 by Piotr Moskal, hangs above the altar. In fact, St. John Paul II, himself, donated a statue and relic of St. Faustina after her canonization in the year 2000.

A second statue of St. Faustina stands in the gift shop, next to the altar. This beautiful image depicts her interceding for the world, crying out to the Lord for mercy. Another side altar now features an image and relic of St. John Paul II and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The church is located next to the general headquar-



Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, talks about shrine.

ters of the Jesuits in Rome. Pope Francis, a Jesuit, has been known to visit the headquarters.

He has also taken a special interest in this church. He initiated a program during the Jubilee Year of Mercy in which high-ranking members of the Roman Curia would hear Confessions in the church.

During April's Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations in Rome, the Missionaries of Mercy gathered in the church for conferences and prayer sessions dedicated to Divine Mercy spirituality. These are priests from around the world — including our own Fr. Darek Drzewiecki, MIC, living in the Philippines — who received special faculties during the Jubilee Year to forgive sins normally reserved to the Holy See. At the end

of the Jubilee Year, on Nov. 20, 2016, the Holy Father extended the mandate of the Missionaries. In fact, he invited them to Rome this year to deepen their commitment to this vital spirituality.

The church also celebrates an English language Mass each Sunday by a Vatican official. Each day, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed there in Italian. The gift shop offers Divine Mercy materials in many languages. An Italian language magazine on the spirituality of the Divine Mercy is published six times a year at the Centre.

The next time you are in Rome, I highly recommend a visit to this beautiful Shrine, which continues developing!



A HONEYMOON WITH THE BRIDEGROOM

German and Rosa Palma on their wedding day on Jan. 13, 2018, at their parish, St. Mary's, in New Britain, Connecticut.

By Melanie Williams

They weren't looking for hot tubs or poolside pampering. Nor were they looking for fairytale horseback rides or fireside artisanal meals. When Rosa and German Palma were planning their honeymoon, they knew they wanted to be with Christ in the Eucharist. So they chose to come to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Considering everything they'd been through, it only stands to reason.

Twenty five years ago, the two were Catholic in name only. They were living together, unmarried, in Puebla, Mexico. In 1999, missing her parents and daughter, Rosa immigrated to the United States to join them, with German eventually following. Settling in Southington, Connecticut,

they proceeded to have three children together.

One day in 2006, Rosa overheard her sister inviting her daughter to a course on the Catholic faith. Intrigued, Rosa asked to come along.

"I encountered Jesus in that course," Rosa said. "I realized

how much I was offending God by our unmarried union.”

She began attending Mass more regularly and made a pilgrimage with her parish to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday. Venerating the towering Image of Divine Mercy here on Eden Hill, she knew Jesus wanted to have mercy on her and German.

With her newfound faith, Rosa gave German an ultimatum: Take the course at church or they would have to split up. Grudgingly, German obliged. Then Rosa asked him for one more thing. She insisted he get an annulment from his previous marriage.

“I needed the Eucharist. I needed Jesus in my life,” Rosa said, “and I couldn’t receive the Eucharist while living in sin.”

When the next Divine Mercy Sunday came around, Rosa and German attended together. The day had a profound effect upon him. He, too, fell in love with the faith. This experience led him to pursue an annulment, which had to be done in Mexico. He received help from a priest-friend who frequently traveled between the two countries. The process proved as complicated as it sounds, and for 10 years, no annulment was granted.

All the while, Rosa and German visited the Shrine more frequently. Each time, Rosa would cry when it came time for Communion.

At the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, on Nov. 20, 2016, German made a trip to the Shrine by himself. Kneeling before the Divine Mercy Image, he prayed, “Lord, if it is Your will for us to separate, then we will get separated. You put her in my life to change me and make me a better man. I put her in Your hands. I’m going to respect whatever You decide. I trust in You.”

After sharing with Rosa his prayer, they decided to bring their problem before their priest. Knowing that Pope Francis had recently made amendments to the annulment process, the priest informed them they could reapply in their local diocese. With renewed hope, they tried again, and exactly one year after the close of the Jubilee Year, the couple came home to an envelope awaiting them marked “Ecclesial Tribunal.” Rosa, not yet fluent in English, could only comprehend parts of the letter. “It seems we’ve been denied and have to appeal again,” she said. In disbelief, German ran outside to a field by their house and began to beg God: “Lord, I trust in You. Forgive me for being desperate, but let it be Your will. Remember she is the woman I love. Both of us want to receive You in the Eucharist.”

German thought he was going to lose her. “And with

her, my own heart, too,” he said.

He went back inside and found that their eldest daughter was now home. She spoke English fluently, so he asked her to read the letter.

“Congratulations! They annulled Daddy’s marriage,” she said.

It turned out that the part of the letter they hadn’t understood dealt with the customary 11-day waiting period, allowing for someone to appeal against the annulment.

Soon after, they received the official annulment letter, and the couple made plans for a Jan. 13 wedding. Rosa knew what time she wanted the wedding Mass — 3 o’clock, the Hour of Mercy.

“The process wasn’t easy,” German said. “But God’s mercy was greater. So, our wedding needed to be at that time.”

They also prepared for their big day by having German go to Confession for the first time in 38 years. The couple came to the Shrine on Dec. 26. Father Anthony Gramlich, MIC, the rector of the Shrine, heard German’s Confession in Spanish.

For 45 days before their wedding, they decided to make reparation for their sins. “We decided to prepare ourselves spiritually and we didn’t have any contact at all,” German said. “I began to see Rosa in a new way, as a spiritual being. I knew it was true love.”

At their wedding, they received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time together.

“It turned out to be a sea of tears,” German said. Grateful tears.

“We had been waiting for that moment for so long,” Rosa said.

As for the honeymoon, German knew there was only one place he wanted to bring his new bride — the Shrine, in Stockbridge.

“We feel that every miracle that has occurred in our lives has come from here,” German said.

They stayed at the St. John Paul II Retreat House and arrived the day after their wedding. They entered the Shrine just before the 2 p.m. Mass and saw the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.

“It was as if He were saying to me, ‘Look, I have been expecting you. I am giving you what you asked for,’” said German.

Rosa and German want to share their love story with others, to give them hope.

“When you put yourself in God’s hands, He works wonders,” said German. All that waiting, he said, “was a purification process for me and for my wife.”

“When you put yourself in God’s hands, He works wonders.”

— German Palma



Father Joe Roesch, MIC (left), insisted the filming include the Blessed Sacrament on the altar “to keep a prayerful atmosphere so that God can use our efforts to bless the world in a powerful way.”

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, MERCY!

A CHAPLET FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE

By Felix Carroll

Photos by Br. Mark Fanders, MIC



Lawrence Hampton is kneeling, Rosary beads laced through his fingers, a bullet still lodged near his spine, and a list of prayer intentions running through his mind like teletype.

Beside him is a woman he's only now just met — Mimi Gromek. She's looking front and center at the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Monstrance, thinking of her late husband, Edward, who used to sit beside her in these very pews, dapper in a dark suit.

A few rows up is Marian Missionary Ben Bobadilla feeling the breath of the Holy Spirit upon his soul. And there's Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and there's longtime Marian Helper Richard Lis, too, and many others — a Shrine full.

All of them come to attention as production crew member Mike Celeri raises his arm with an authoritative flourish.

“OK, we're rolling,” says Michael, going by the directive of disjointed voices coming in through his headset from a mobile control room parked out front.

“Stand by,” Michael tells the assembly.

“Seven, six, five, four, three —”

Lights — a veritable wall of them up on the choir loft

and beside the altar of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Cameras — big, chunky, professional-grade technological marvels on booms and tripods, their red recording lights blinking.

Action — “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” begins Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, down on a kneeler in the center aisle, praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Behind him, a Shrine full of Marians and



Marian Helpers prepares to mark their place by means of their Rosary beads as they chant the words our Lord revealed to St. Faustina back in 1935.

The power of a prayer

What's going on here on this bitter, cold day of Monday, April 9, inside the spiritual headquarters for the Association of Marian Helpers?



The truck on the left contains the production control room.

The Marian Fathers, in conjunction with EWTN and the Flynn family from MercySong Ministries, are filming a new version of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to replace the

one that's been airing daily on the global Catholic network for more than a decade — the one that's drawn untold numbers of people to the faith.

People like Anna Wishall of Kansas, who providentially came upon the Chaplet back in 2007 while channel surfing.

"I was working at a group home on the graveyard shift," Anna recalls. "I was switching channels to MTV or something. It was 6 o'clock in the morning, and I landed on EWTN, and the Chaplet was on. To be honest, I was embarrassed to be watching it and worrying that my co-workers were going to come upon me here, but I couldn't turn it off because I felt the grace of God was speaking directly to me. It grabbed my heart, and it led to a huge reversion back to the faith for me."

Now Anna's here, in this very Shrine, praying this very same prayer in a recording that untold millions will view in the years to come.

For the Marian Fathers, the filming underscores the commitment they made before God in the intriguing aftermath of St. Faustina's death in 1938, when her spiritual director, Blessed Michael Sopocko, became the de facto bearer of the Divine Mercy revelations Faustina received. But with World War II raging — and squeezed between the atheist regimes of the Nazis and Soviets, for whom the Lord's name was to be used in vain or not at all — Blessed Sopocko made perhaps the most consequential hand-off in Catholic history, giv-



The Flynn family (front, right) once again leads the Chaplet, just as they did back in 2006 in a recording that airs daily on weekdays on EWTN. The new version will begin airing sometime next year.

ing key materials concerning Faustina’s revelations to a Marian priest who was trying to get out of Europe. That priest, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, vowed that if he made it to America, he would promote Divine Mercy for the rest of his life.

He landed on American shores in May 1941. Stockbridge, now home to the Shrine and the Marian Helpers Center, has since become the world epicenter for the spread of Divine Mercy. And Fr. Jarzebowski’s promise became the Marians’ promise, later codified by St. Pope John Paul II when he told the Marians in 1993 to “be apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.”

The Chaplet itself is a keystone in St. Faustina’s revelations. Christ gave the Chaplet to the world as an extension of the offering of our prayers at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By means of the Chaplet, He invites us to apply the benefits of that offering to any need, at any time. Countless people have had their lives changed through this simple prayer, which is prayed on ordinary Rosary beads.

“Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will,” Jesus said (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1731).

Holy aches and pains

The new filming will begin airing on EWTN in about a year, says EWTN’s Jody Copeland, the producer and direc-

tor. All told, it took a full afternoon on April 9, followed by more filming the following morning to get all the footage Copeland and his crew needed before they headed back to EWTN headquarters in Irondale, Alabama. Their plan is to slice and dice the footage down to a succinct 20-minute Chaplet in song.

The 180-plus participants in the filming kneeled for hours, praying a total of 15 full Chaplets in order for the



Jody Copeland, the producer and director, mans the controls during the filming.

crew to get the sound and images it needed.

In the choir loft, Br. Ken Galisa, MIC, provided the organ accompaniment. The Flynn family — Vinny and Donna,



About 180 Marians and Marian Helpers participate in the filming.

and their children, Brian, Colleen, Erin, and Mary — led each decade of the Chaplet, just as they did in several Chaplet recordings from the Shrine spanning back to the 1980s that EWTN has aired.

For the assembled Marians and Marian Helpers who volunteered in the filming, their responsibility consisted of chanting the words “have mercy on us and on the whole world,” time and time again. Achy knees and sore backs amounted to a small price to pay.

“We lift up all the stiff joints, sore knees, and backaches for the people we’re praying for,” says Vinny.

“This is awesome,” says Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC, the Marians’ postulant director, stretching during a break. “This

will be on EWTN for the next 10 or 15 years. People in the future will be looking at this, and it’s really great to be a part of that.”

And participants were only all too delighted to make use of the opportunity to lift up the intentions of loved ones.

All the way back, in the second to the last pew, Lawrence Hampton of Bronx, New York — a former drug dealer and drug abuser — prayed for his family, his friends, and his enemies.

He still limps from nerve damage caused from a drug-related shooting

back in 1994. The bullet remains inside him because it’s too risky to remove. It was only a year ago that he checked himself into St. Anthony Shelter for Renewal, founded by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and got clean, physically and spiritually. Several months later, on Nov. 19, he was Baptized.

Now he’s here in this Shrine, at this historic filming.

“I had asked God to remove the taste and cravings for drugs, and He did,” Lawrence says. “He’s been rebuilding me from the inside out.”

Everyone has their own story.

A few pews away, Rosemary Tirone of Portchester, New York, prays for her nine grandchildren and four children, including a son serving in Afghanistan.

“With each ‘For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,’ I lift up a

Father Joe Roesch, MIC

The Marians’ vicar general



After the last time we filmed the Chaplet, back in 2006, people come up to me wherever I am around the world and say, “Oh, Father, I pray with you every day the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.” That’s very much on my heart as we film this — all the people who will be praying with us into the future

as this airs on EWTN.

Rick Paolini

Amherst, New York



Participation in the filming of the Divine Mercy Chaplet showed me how focusing on Jesus could help me ignore distractions and pain. All the lights, cameras, and knee pain were not enough to take my focus from the Monstrance. After the filming was complete, I was so grateful for the decision to use a Consecrated Host in the Monstrance during the filming. Jesus, I trust in You!



Lawrence Hampton

Bronx, New York

I’m here learning to walk a little more like the Father, to live His way. If I had a bullhorn, I’d tell the world, “Stop wasting time, because He’s coming.” I may not have the house I want or the money I want in my pocket, but I am

rich with the Holy Spirit today. I made peace with my God, and I made peace with myself.

Anna Wishall

Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy



The more I longed for God, the more I was fearful to come back to Him because I felt He was going to be so angry with me. But seeing the Chaplet on EWTN was my way back in. I felt the Lord’s gentle love that’s so immense that nothing I can do as a sinner is going to turn Him away completely. He’ll be there waiting for me.



The new Chaplet will be a big improvement over the current version — better lighting and high-definition video.

different loved one,” she says.

As does Ann Clark of Bedford, New Hampshire. “I’m here with great gratitude,” she says. “And among my prayer intentions are for those who will watch this.”

Future viewers are precisely whom Fr. Joe has in mind as he leads the congregation in prayer just before the filming commences at 1:15 p.m. on April 9.

“We cry out for mercy today to You, Lord,” he said. “We ask for You to pour out Your mercy to the world. We hold up to You the sick and the suffering, the dying, the imprisoned, the people who are far from You, who are alienated from You, people who need healing in so many ways.

“God gave the world the Chaplet,” said Fr. Joe, “because He knew we would need it.”

MH

Richard Lis

Housatonic, Massachusetts



I was in the filming the last time, back 12 years ago. In the years since then I’ve had triple bypass surgery, and a neuromuscular disorder that put me in the nursing home for a few weeks. But I just go through little things compared with what Christ went through. I wake up each morning and pray, “Take me another step toward Heaven and help me to be holy.”



Brother Scott, MIC

Marian seminarian

I’ve heard so many stories of people turning the channels and accidentally finding EWTN and seeing the Chaplet. So I am praying for people who will come across this, for atheists, for those who feel they can’t come back to God. I am praying that this recording will draw them to Christ. I do believe God will use this in powerful ways.

Mimi Gromek

Latrobe, Pennsylvania



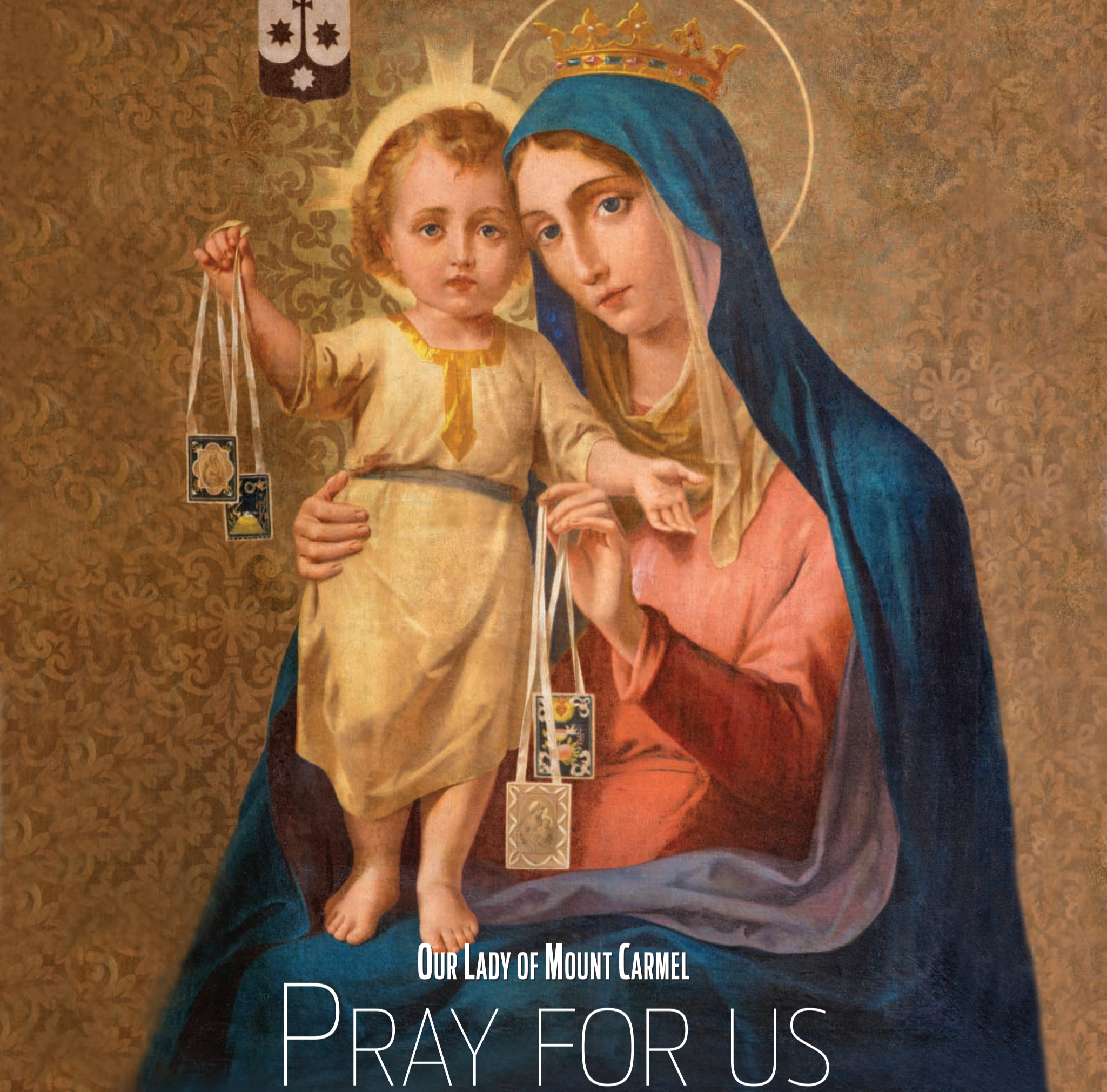
This all brings back memories of my husband, Edward, who died last year. We were in the last Chaplet filming in 2006. You can see him in it. I brought with me a whole list of prayer intentions: for the end to abortion, for conversions in the family, for our politicians to govern according to God’s laws, for the world to come to know the true God, and for Edward.

Charles Yezak

Marlin, Texas



After my wife, Nellie, and I learned about the Chaplet from our son in 2006, our lives and Catholic faith were forever changed. The Chaplet has been so powerful in our lives that we’ve made it our mission to introduce others to it and to Divine Mercy. By praying the Chaplet for the sick and dying, we may be instrumental in saving souls, especially at the hour of death.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PRAY FOR US

By Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC

Every year on July 16, the Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The novena leading up to her feast is one of the most popular here at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy (see sidebar). So what makes Our Lady of Mount Carmel so popular among Marian Helpers?

History credits her with appearing to the Carmelite St. Simon Stock in the 13th century and giving him the Brown Scapular, among the Church's most popular sacramentals.

Though the Marian Fathers wear the Blue Scapular, which represents a special dedication to the Immaculate Conception, I, myself, wear both the Blue and Brown Scapulars, for reasons I'll explain. But first, as we approach the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, let's acquaint ourselves with some history.

Mount Carmel, itself, located in Israel, had become a home to the Carmelites by the 12th century. They had a particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. However,

due to political and social upheaval, the Carmelites were forced to leave by the end of the 13th century. They settled in Europe, including in England, where Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, appeared to St. Simon Stock.

According to tradition, the Blessed Mother told St. Simon that whoever dies wearing the Brown Scapular would be saved. Of course, at the time people believed that Our Lady meant that Carmelites who wear their habit (with the scapular) and remain faithful to their way of life and prayer as given in their Rule and Constitutions, would attain salvation. Over time, with the popularization of devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the wearing of the Brown Scapular, it became widely understood that such a promise also extended to laity.

Many miracles have been attributed to the Brown Scapular. However, wearing the scapular out of a sense of superstition — believing that *all* one needs to do is to wear it without conforming one's life to the Gospel — cannot sufficiently lead us to salvation (and can be a sin). Indeed, a scapular symbolizes devotion and obedience to Our Lady. It is not a talisman.

I came to wear the Brown Scapular shortly after my reversion back to my Catholic faith around the year 1995. I was a graduate student at Stanford, studying electrical engineering. Some friends of mine, in addition to teaching me to pray the Rosary, also taught me the tradition of the Brown Scapular and gave me one to wear. Thus began my Marian devotion, which would eventually lead to my vocation with the Marians.

Before I entered the seminary, however, I was dating a young woman whom I introduced to the Brown Scapular. When she asked me why one should wear it, I thought of the following analogy: Through our Baptism, we “put on Christ,” which the baptismal garment symbolizes. In a similar way, with the Brown Scapular, we “put on Mary.” We entrust ourselves to her, and she grants us favors and

protection, especially at the hour of death.

Obviously, my relationship with my former girlfriend didn't last, but my relationship with Our Lady continued to grow. In 2001, I made my Marian consecration for the first time and entered the seminary in 2003. When I made my first vows in 2006, I received the Blue Scapular. What to do, then, with my Brown Scapular? I

found that I could continue wearing the Brown Scapular in addition to my Blue Scapular as an expression of love and devotion to Our Lady. Thus, I still wear the cloth version of the Brown Scapular and the medal version of my Blue Scapular, which I received from the hands of Fr. Mark Garrow, MIC, my novice master and an extraordinarily holy priest.

Beyond that little story, a couple of significant events have unfolded in my life in connection with the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In 2002, I had been praying for some dear friends of mine in Colorado, a married couple who desired to conceive a child but had not been able to do so up to that point in time. They told me the joyful news that they were expecting a baby, and they asked me to be the godfather. That day was July 16, the feast day. And the next year, one of my best friends from grammar school got married on July 16. It was a beautiful Catholic Mass with devoted family members on both sides of the family, and I was blessed to be in the wedding party.

So, the annual celebration of this memorial causes me to reflect on these happy memories, which, in turn, remind me of Our Lady's special favors and protection for all who devote themselves to her, especially through Marian consecration and the wearing of the Brown Scapular. I pray that you, too, may grow in your devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and experience ever more deeply her special love and protection in your life.

MH

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

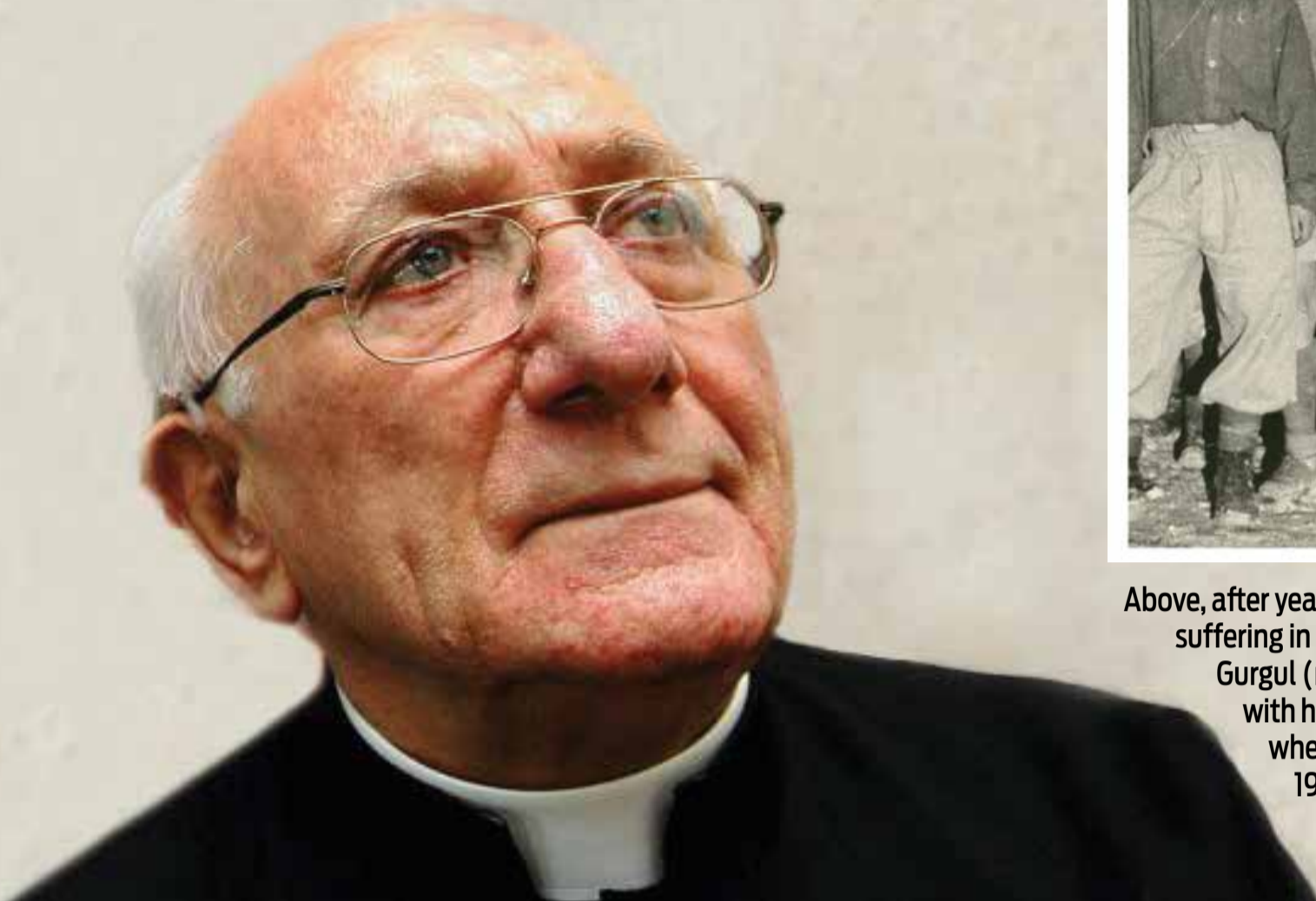


Saint John Paul II once said, “Amongst many devotions that captivated my child’s soul, I participated the most ardently in the novena before the Feast of Our Lady of the Scapular [Our Lady of Mount Carmel].”

The Marians at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy will offer a Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel from July 7-15 with a Holy Mass on her feast day, July 16.

- We invite you to have your intentions remembered during the novena. See marian.org/b38.
- To order a **Brown Scapular** (Product code: B38-BRS) visit ShopMercy.org/b38 or call 1-800-462-7426.

MEET FR. WALTER GURGUL, MIC



Above, after years of starvation and suffering in Siberia, little Walter Gurgul (right) is all smiles with his class in Nazareth, where he lived from 1942-1945.

FROM SIBERIA, WITH LOVE

By Melanie Williams

Born on Sept. 28, 1930, on a small farm in Belz, Poland, Fr. Walter Gurgul, MIC, had a simple, happy childhood that came to an abrupt end in 1939, when the Soviets invaded Poland.

We recently asked Fr. Gurgul, one of the Marians' cherished seniors who lives and ministers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, to share memories of those days that helped to form him into the priest he eventually became.

"The 10th of February 1940 — a day one remembers so well," Fr. Gurgul muttered as he seemed to recall it before his very eyes.

The Gurgul family of eight and their neighbors were among the hundreds of thousands of Poles forced onto freight cars and brought to Siberia following the Soviet invasion. There they were placed into squalid labor camps where at least half of their fellow Poles died from starvation or disease.

"It was bitterly cold," Fr. Gurgul remembered. "And we were constantly reminded that we were 'destined to die here like dogs.' We starved for more than three days at a time."

The Gurguls were given a single room with a bread oven and one bed. His father worked as a haymaker, and his mother carried water. His beloved father eventually fell ill and was sent to a hospital, never to be seen again.

Meanwhile, little Walter attended school Monday through Saturday. He did so well that the KGB began to take note of him. His father's words to him echoed in his ears: "My dear little boy. Child, learn; learn as much as possible. It will be useful and serve you in your life."

Fearful that her son might be taken away by the KGB and without enough money to provide for food, Walter's mother began to hope for an opportunity to escape.

In the summer of 1941, the camp's entire Polish community was gathered by the Soviet authorities. Some thought, "We will be shot on the spot!" To their great surprise, the Poles were told they were being granted their freedom. However, they later overheard those who had a smuggled radio say that on June 22, 1941, Hitler had declared war on Russia, and Stalin wanted to gather the Poles to create a Polish army to fight against the Germans.

On a cold night in November 1941, pulling their children behind them on sleds, Walter's mother and aunt set out on foot to escape, making the more than 18-mile trek through the forests to a railway station.

"Where did they get their strength?" Fr. Gurgul asked. "It was their innate motherly instinct which drove them to that heroism, to save their beloved children."

He added, "I remember the wolves and wild bears. It was bitterly cold and scary."

They hopped upon a train heading south. Arriving in Uzbekistan, they were greeted by the Polish army, who took compassion on them and gave them a hut made out of straw and clay. Walter worked on his hands and knees picking cotton in the fields. The only food they could scrounge up was a rice porridge. Desperate for meat, his mother killed a stray, mangy dog. A few days after that meal, the whole family, save the eldest boy, fell ill with typhoid. Walter witnessed the death of his 2-year-old brother, Bronus, and his 4-year-old sister, Irenka.

After recovering, the remaining members of the family met a Polish officer who recognized their name. "Gurgul? I was in the army with your father in 1939!" He led Bolek, the eldest son, and Walter to the platoons where there were more than 70 young Polish boys. By the end of February 1942, the Polish military announced that they needed to send the young boys abroad.

"We were leaving the East forever," Fr. Gurgul said. "We left behind all misery and hardship. A new chapter of life had begun."

Due to the British Protection Act, Polish survivors could be sent to British colonies. His mother and the youngest children were sent to Kenya, while his eldest

brother was sent to Egypt and Walter was sent to Palestine. There he attended grammar school in Nazareth and a Salesian high school in Jerusalem.

In 1947, the British Protection Act expired, and Walter was sent to England where he was reunited with his mother and siblings. He continued his seminary studies, desiring to become a Salesian priest.

One day in 1950, while visiting his mother, he ran into a Polish chaplain who said to him, "Oh, Walter, you're not going to be a Salesian priest, you are going to be a 'Polish' priest."

Meanwhile, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC (the Marian who brought the Divine Mercy devotion to America), and a handful of other Marians had just arrived in England and established a novitiate in Hereford. Walter was accepted into the Congregation, arriving on Jan. 19, 1953. He was ordained in Rome on July 4, 1960.

His assignments included teaching and serving as headmaster for the Marians' school in Hereford until its closing in 1986.

Father Gurgul came to the United States in 1997 and has spent the past 20 years serving at the National Shrine and in other Marian ministries. His health now in decline, he spends his days hearing Confessions, joyfully dispensing God's mercy to those who ask for it — and writing his memoirs.

Father Gurgul says, "My advice to all who will listen: One, make your last words of the day an Act of Contrition for anything you might have done to offend God. Two, stay in touch with Our Lady. She brings us to Jesus. Three, always carry a Rosary, wear a scapular, or have a prayercard with you."

Fr. Joseph, MIC,
talks about
urgent appeal



We need your help!

God has not only graced the Marian Fathers with an abundance of new, young vocations — more than 30 in the United States today — but He has also blessed us with the long lives of faithful priests like Fr. Walter Gurgul, MIC, who, in their senior years, continue to serve Christ and His Church.

These men have touched countless lives over the decades, and we now return the favor. The Marians launched an urgent appeal this past spring requesting your prayers and financial assistance as we seek to establish a fund to care for the needs of our elderly priests.

These men have served many roles in our religious Congregation over the decades. It so happens that all four men are not covered by Social Security because they joined the Marians as young men just out of school or, in Fr. Gurgul's case, immigrated here from Europe as a priest never earning Social Security. These four priests increasingly require essential services and support geared toward the elderly, including healthcare insurance, transportation to medical appointments, retrofitted vehicles and bathrooms, and medication.

We hope and pray that this urgent appeal we will raise \$200,000 for the ongoing needs of these exceptional priests.

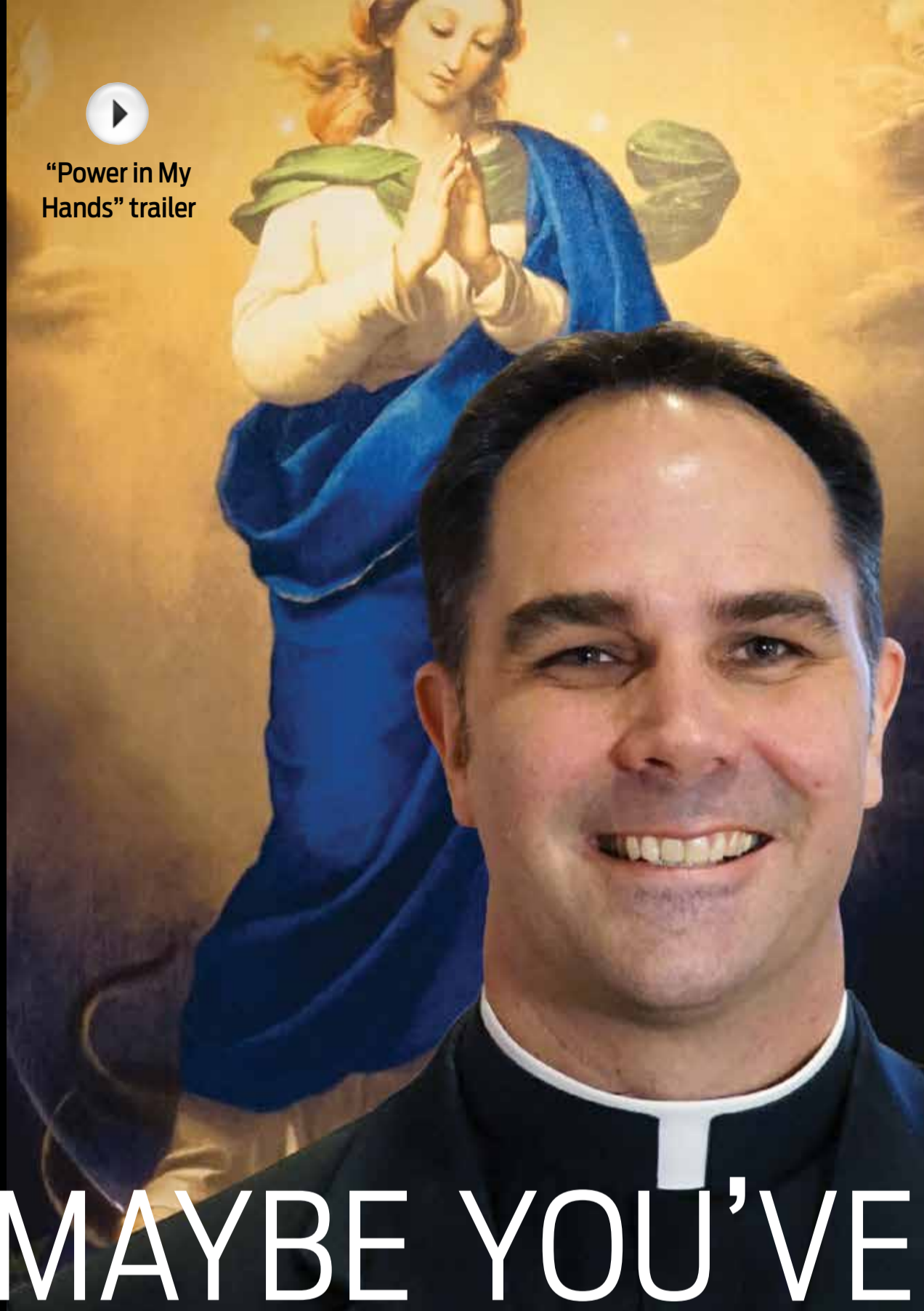
Your donation will go directly toward helping them to live humbly and with dignity as they carry out the good work of our Congregation until the Lord calls them home.

To donate, visit marian.org/urgent or call 1-800-462-7426.

Donate now! Text the word **URGENT** to **49892**



“Power in My Hands” trailer



MAYBE YOU’VE SEEN HIM ON FILM?

By Marc Massery

Two films, one short segment, and an Emmy Award all within the span of two years. The conversion story of Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, continues to have a powerful impact on the world, reminding us about the Blessed Virgin Mary’s knack for bringing people to Christ.

An Emmy on his mantle

The Emmy for “Outstanding Achievement for Interview/Discussion Programming” at the 2017 Chicago

Midwest Emmy Awards (part of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences) went to an interview with Fr. Donald called “Poster Child of Divine Mercy: The Testimony of Fr. Donald Calloway.” Produced by Spirit Juice Studios, this six-minute interview is part of a larger documentary film narrated by actor Jim Caviezel, called “The Face of Mercy.”

In this short, Fr. Donald tells the story of his conversion illustrated by images from his past. In his youth, Donald

worked as a drug runner for the Japanese mafia and was wanted by the Japanese and American governments. He lived for pleasure, spending several years of his life “almost perpetually high,” according to his interview. At one point, he endured three months in drug rehab, only to relapse the day he got out.

Then, of course, the Blessed Virgin Mary captured his heart. Alone in his parents’ house, thinking about taking his own life, he discovered a book on Marian apparitions. It completely turned his life around, eventually leading him to the improbable: ordination as a Catholic priest.

Father Donald’s story emerges, of course, in a culture overwhelmed with drug addiction, rampant sexual promiscuity, abortion, euthanasia, and rising suicide rates.

“There are so many people today who are broken and wounded, and they are looking for a way out,” he said. “There are many, many parents who are really worried about their children because they are involved in drugs, immorality, and crime. I think my story offers hope.”

To the fundamentals of the faith

Father Donald’s conversion story is also featured in an 80-minute film coming out this year, “Power in My Hands,” produced by the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate. This apostolate seeks to “bring the faithful to encounter Jesus Christ through Our Lady and her Rosary,” according to Dick Boldon, who founded the apostolate with his wife, Terry.

This film features over a dozen Catholics describing the beauty of the Rosary and its capacity to address the spiritual crisis of our modern world. In addition to Fr. Donald, the film features many other well-known Catholics, including speaker Jeff Cavins and NFL superstar Philip Rivers. Catholic evangelist Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers talks about growing up fatherless, only to meet up with his father late in life and witness his powerful conversion through Our Lady and Divine Mercy.

Also featured is Nancy Salerno, a mother of four who turns to Our Lady for help in caring for one of her children who suffers from a severe disability. Father Donald’s conversion story fits nicely into the theme of the film — that Our Lady can take us out of spiritual

darkness and lead us to Christ.

“We’ve kicked God out of everything,” said Fr. Donald. “Our schools, the workplace, everybody’s got their own agenda and ideology. We’re not welcoming of God. We’ve got so much craziness going on redefining everything, what it means to be a man, what it means to be a woman. Marriage is being redefined. People are just confused, and the world is getting more and more messed up. That’s the fruit of not having God in your life — your reality falls apart. That’s why we need the Rosary in a big way because it brings back the fundamentals of the faith. It’s Christianity 101.”

The world premiere of “Power in My Hands” took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 12, and the film will be shown selectively across the United States through July. The film will be available on DVD in August.



That’s the name of our own Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, on that Emmy Award.

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, is featured in three recent films:

- “The Face of Mercy,” produced by Spirit Juice Studios
- “Power in My Hands,” produced by the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate
- “The Rosary: Spiritual Sword of Our Lady,” produced by the Marian Fathers

A spiritual sword

Father Donald’s remarkable conversion from hedonism to Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary has created the perfect platform for him to preach about the power of Marian devotion, especially the Rosary. Ever since he wrote his 2016 Marian Press title *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon*, he’s traveled the country speaking about this timeless devotion, telling the Catholic world to take up the Rosary as a spiritual sword for the sake of Christ and His Church.

Father Donald said that he sometimes receives two to three invitations every day to give a talk. To meet the demand, he decided to put out a DVD, “The Rosary: Spiritual Sword of Our Lady,” produced by the Marian Fathers. In it, he gives a historic overview of the Rosary, explaining its theological significance through the lives of the saints.

“Part of why I did the video is that I can’t be everywhere,” he said. “This way people can show their prayer groups or their parish. It’s the exact same thing: it’s just not me live.”

This film is based on a talk given by Fr. Donald on Sept. 8, 2017, the birthday of Our Lady, at St. Mary of Pine Bluff in Cross Plains, Wisconsin. “We filmed it in one take, which was a miracle,” he said. MH

To order “The Rosary: Spiritual Sword of Our Lady,” visit FatherCalloway.org or ShopMercy.org/b38 (Product code: B38-RDVD).



**'They're
wrong!'**

Love
them
anyway.

By Chris Sparks

We live in a sharply divided country. The culture wars have gone on for decades over foundational truths and fundamental human rights. The political parties publicly act out some of the worst displays of putting partisanship before principles in living memory. We face leaders of questionable integrity and dispute basic facts.

And more: Globally, Christianity faces active persecution in some places and eviction from the public square by practically atheistic secularization in others.

The future remains unclear; the present, murky; the past, all too often forgotten.

In such a world, it's easy to become militant, to believe that speaking the truth requires giving the liars a tongue-lashing, if not more. We turn to memes and videos by our favorite pundits, retweet sarcasm and perhaps even slander, and refuse to acknowledge or rebuke those who lie on our side because we're so infuriated by those liars on the other side.

I know this all too well; I suffer from some of these temptations and sometimes fall.

But I can't remain there. No Marian Helper can. Divine Mercy calls us to a better way.

We're not allowed to remain in bitterness. We Marian Helpers, we devotees of the Divine Mercy, we Catholic Christians are not allowed to blindly or blithely accept the sins of "our side" as necessary in order to counter the greater evils of "their side." All of us in any human conflict, on all sides, are brothers and sisters in Adam, if not in Christ.

And so we, like the earliest Christians living under persecution in pagan Rome, have to learn how to live side by side with our enemies. It's a great work of mercy, after all, to love the liar; to love a sinner; to love someone who believes in evil or pursues evil.

And these days, that's the norm.

There are people on the left and the right who are wrong about basic, fundamental issues of human rights and dignity. Some advocate for real, grave evil, all in the name of the pursuit of a real good — but our faith says we should never choose to do evil in order that good may come of it.

And what are we to do with people supporting evil? We must love them.

During Holy Mass, I saw Jesus stretched out on the Cross, and He said to me, "My pupil, have great love for those who cause you suffering. Do good to those who hate you." (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 1628)

We are called to love those people over there, the dissidents, the heretics, apostates, and schismatics.

We are to love the people who are inappropriate, unseemly, or simply wrong.

We are called to love, and to love everybody, all the time, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with the same love that moved Christ to become incarnate, suffer, and die for us.

We are called most especially to love those whom we find hardest to love, those who have sinned against us,

who have hurt us and our loved ones.

Saint Faustina recorded in her *Diary* that she found herself in conversation with someone who had caused her harm. At first St. Faustina was tempted to just bluntly tell her the truth and ignore the consequences, but then she recollected herself and was merciful, sharing the truth in love. In response, Jesus said to her, "I am glad you behaved like My true daughter. Be always merciful as I am merciful. Love everyone out of love for Me, even your greatest enemies, so that My mercy may be fully reflected in your heart" (1695).

Now, that doesn't mean we cease to stand up for the truth, but it does mean we are always to defend the truth *in love*. It's a hard call to answer, perhaps even a humanly impossible call, but we are gifted the power of the Holy Spirit. The love of God has entered our hearts through Baptism. We have been sealed with the love of God in Confirmation and had that love renewed at every properly received Eucharist. We are revived in that love of God at each Confession.

We have everything we need to run this race of the Christian life in love, if only we open our mouths and our hearts in prayer, and so breathe in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and live the divine life now.

So in this time of discord and strife, of accusation of the brethren and the politics of envy and total war, let us recommit ourselves to loving those who disagree with us — even if they are clearly and truly in the wrong. Let us challenge ourselves and our parish communities to be beacons of light in the midst of the storm, forgiving and washing the feet of those who persecute us, serving faithfully with the love of God dwelling in our hearts. Let us be determined witnesses to the truth in love, always seeing that we're speaking to a brother or sister, not simply an opponent or an enemy, and practicing the same life-giving love that Christ practiced at Calvary, forgiving those who did Him wrong (see Lk 23:34; see also Rom 5:6-8).

And let us pray for one another that we may have the grace and virtue needed to live up to this high and incredibly hard calling, that we may live supernatural lives in the Holy Spirit, and be ready to pick each other up if (when!) we fall short.

MH

Chris Sparks is the author of How Can You Still Be Catholic: 50 Answers to a Good Question (Marian Press). It can be purchased by visiting ShopMercy.org/b38 or by calling 1-800-462-7426. (Product code: B38-BCBB)

"The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people."

— G. K. Chesterton,
The Illustrated London News,
July 16, 1910

We cross this bridge together

Theologian Dr. Robert Stackpole, director of the *John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy*, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers, has authored a new book, *A Bridge of Mercy: Homosexuality and God's Merciful Love* (Marian Press). Below, he discusses with us his reasoning for this latest project.

Who is your audience for this book?

Well, there are several books out there on this controversial topic — including some written by Catholic authors. But I wanted to write one that was specifically for Catholics: for the many Catholics today who are confused and beginning to wonder whether the Church's teachings on this subject are still credible, defensible, or even livable anymore. Young Catholics especially, whose worldview



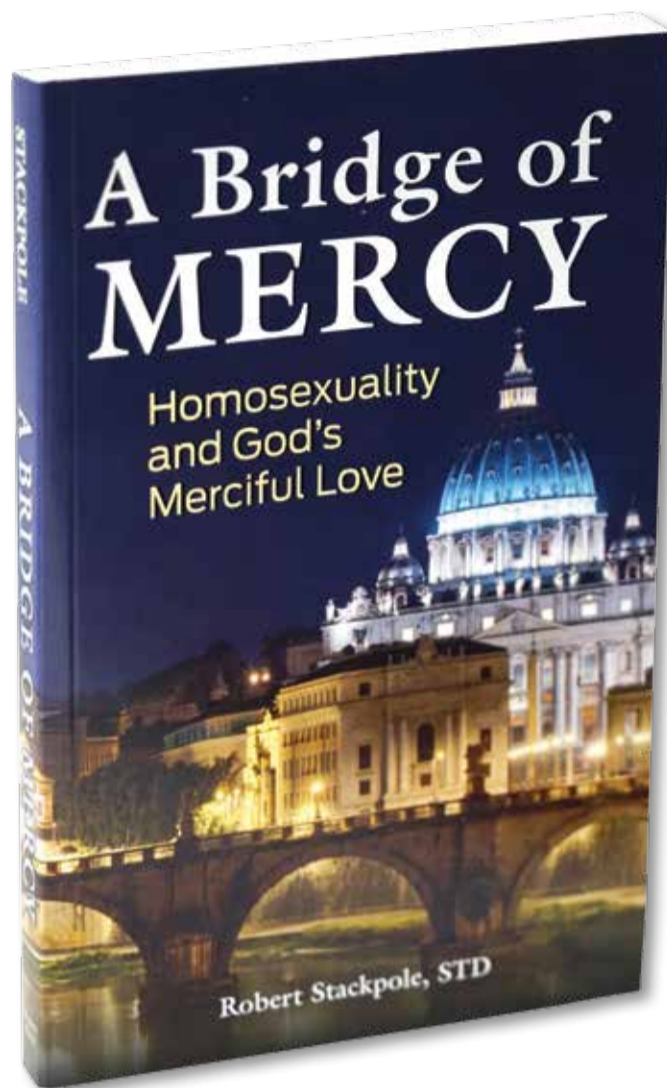
Dr. Robert Stackpole

has been shaped to some degree by the media and entertainment industries, sincerely want to know why the Catholic Church stands against the prevailing cultural trend about same-sex attraction. Catholic parents, too, who may have friends, relatives, or family members who have come out and said they are gay, want to know how they can relate to them in an authentically Catholic way — a way that

neither compromises their faith, nor falls short of the call to merciful love. That's why the book is called *A Bridge of Mercy* — because all the evidence from Scripture, the *Catechism*, philosophy, and the social sciences that I cover in this book is ultimately geared to one thing: helping us, as Catholics, to love our gay brothers and sisters with Christ's own merciful love, in the light of the truth of the Catholic faith.

Why release this book now?

I felt that a book like this was urgently needed because so many good Catholics are feeling alarmed — and even



overwhelmed — by the dramatic changes in our culture today on issues of sexuality. I wanted to reassure them — to steady the ship, so to speak — by putting a book in their hands that shows that just because our culture has changed doesn't mean the truth has changed.

But if the culture has moved solidly in the direction of full acceptance of homosexuality and gay marriage, where does that leave the Church?

I think it leaves the Church with a challenge. In this circumstance, Catholics in the pews are not called to become more defeatist, or more angry and defensive, but better informed and more holy. We have to learn to do something that we have never done very well before: We have to learn to love our gay brothers

and sisters as people who, in most respects, are no different than ourselves. That is to say, like them, we are sinners not yet fully cured, on a common journey into the Heart of the merciful Jesus, to receive His grace and healing love. They have brokenness and inner wounds in their lives, and so do we; ours just have different names than theirs. The bridge of mercy that the Church must build for them, therefore, is one we all need to cross together.

How does this book tie in with the mission of the John Paul II Institute?

Well, St. John Paul II was justly called “The Great Mercy Pope,” and much of his pontificate was dedicated to clarifying and proclaiming the Church's moral teachings. The book opens with him quoting St. Edith Stein, a quote that guided everything I wrote: “Do not accept anything as truth if it lacks love. And do not accept anything as love which lacks truth! One without the other becomes a destructive lie.”

MH

Visit ShopMercy.org/b38 or call 1-800-462-7426 to order *A Bridge of Mercy: Homosexuality and God's Merciful Love*. (Product code: B38-MBBK)

A lay nurse of like mind

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLESSED HANNA

It sounds like the plot from an Oscar-winning movie: *Despite a raging World War II, a woman becomes a powerful force, rallying others to her side to help thousands escape sickness, cold, and starvation.*

But it's not a movie. It's the true story of Polish nurse Hanna Chrzanowska who, on April 28, became the first lay registered nurse in history to be beatified.

The beatification ceremony took place at the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Krakow-Łagiewniki, Poland — beside the red brick convent where St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the “Apostle of Divine Mercy,” lived and died.

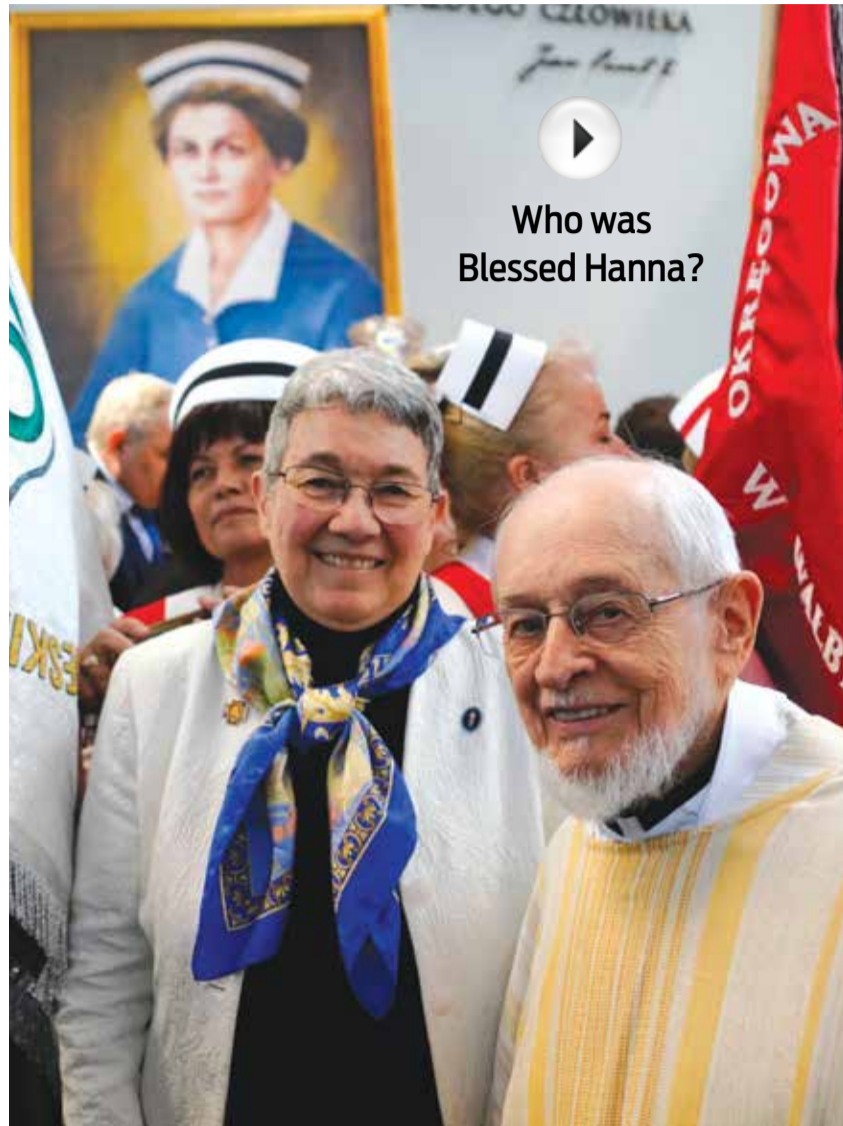
Not surprisingly, her story is resonating with nurses and other healthcare workers. One such professional who has been encouraged by Blessed Hanna's story is Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers that focuses on educating healthcare professionals in the spiritual care of patients.

Marie sees the beatification as a solid reaffirmation of her own healthcare mission. “I am so excited to be able to witness another nurse who believed in incorporating her personal faith with the care of the patient,” she said. “Blessed Hanna lived the kind of spiritual life that I would hope each Healthcare Professional could emulate.”

Marie praised Blessed Hanna's commitment. “She combined her nursing with the Scripture where Mary goes ‘in haste’ to St. Elizabeth. She would always quote that and say, ‘We must go in haste to be with our patients,’ to treat them as they're Christ Himself.”

After World War II, Blessed Hanna organized the distribution of food and other necessities to thousands of people starving in Krakow.

“Some of those whom she served were in the most



Marie Romagnano, RN, and Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, attend the beatification of Blessed Hanna on April 28, on the grounds of the convent where St. Maria Faustina Kowalska lived.

Who was
Blessed Hanna?

horrible possible living conditions,” Marie said.

“She *totally* believed in taking care of the poor, and those who had absolutely nothing,” Marie continued. “Her friends who were nurses *all* volunteered. They did this because the Communist system did not take care of people at home at all. There was no such thing as a visiting nurse. *She's* the one who started it.”

The bishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła — the future Pope John Paul II — supported her mission. “He worked with her, side by side, to establish the first Parish Nursing Program ever,” Marie explained. “She taught him what was lacking in healthcare. As a bishop in Krakow, he was inspired by her to establish Feb. 11 as the Day of the Sick, which as pope he would

make a worldwide observance.”

She also conducted retreats for nurses and patients, and penned the famous “Nurses Examination of Conscience” (which is inscribed on her beatification photo).

When Hanna Chrzanowska died on Divine Mercy Sunday in Kraków on April 29, 1973, the funeral Mass and ceremony were conducted by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. In the homily, he referred to her as “an embodiment of Christ's beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, especially the one saying ‘Blessed are the merciful.’”

According to Marie, it's not just the great accomplishments that make her an inspiration. “We should appreciate how *normal* she was. She was very down to earth. She shared her spirituality with her students and with her patients, and she made everyone welcome.”

MH

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare to learn more about Blessed Hanna.

— Terry Peloquin



BR. MARK FANDERS, MIC

An artist rendering of the future Marian House of Studies, which will replace two nearby Marian residences that are currently at full capacity. The building is a former elementary school.

A House of Studies takes shape in Ohio

No doubt, it's a blessed problem — a full house at the Marian House of Studies due to an historic increase in vocations. Yet, it's a problem just the same.

But thanks to the generous support of Marian Helpers, the Marians have a solution.

In the spring of 2016, we made an Urgent Appeal for funds to help us respond to the space crunch in Steubenville, Ohio, where the Marians' yearlong postulancy program takes place (and where other Marians in formation continue their philosophical and theological studies). Thanks to your commitment to our Congregation and the future priests of the Church, that appeal has raised about \$1.6 million to date.

With it, we were blessed to purchase a 22,182-square-foot former elementary school and begin extensive renovations to transform it into a new Marian House of Studies.

Because of continued blessings from our Lord in the number of new vocations, we recently had to modify the design to add more space. As a result, we need an additional \$2 million to complete the project.

The Marians have more than 35 men in various stages of formation in the United States.

"God has been blessing us with an unprecedented number of vocations, and with the support of Marian Helpers, we are able to make major headway in meeting our growing needs," said the Very Rev. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior.

Once renovations are complete, the building will house Marian priests and seminarians who currently live

in two nearby residences, all within the neighborhood of Franciscan University. The Marians will sell those two buildings after their move into the new building, slated for the summer of 2019.

Plans for the 49-year-old building include creating 40 bedrooms, several offices, classroom space, a library and conference room, dining area, kitchen, recreation room, and chapel. Here's where the renovation work now stands:

- Much of the infrastructure (plumbing, framing, and electric) has been updated to meet building code.
- 19 bedrooms have been completed and given "conditional occupancy" by town officials.
- Work has begun on the library conference room.
- Work has begun on framing for the kitchen, classroom, dining area, and a temporary chapel.
- The exterior no longer resembles the former brick school building. It now has an EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System) covering, with a mortar-colored base, as is used in most new buildings.
- A deteriorated gymnasium/auditorium has been removed to make way for a courtyard.

We're grateful to all our Marian Helpers who helped fund this project. Please pray for the renovations and for all our Marian seminarians. If you find it in your heart to make a financial contribution to our Marian House of Studies, please visit marian.org/studies or call 1-800-462-7426.

MH

— Terry Peloquin

‘Become like children’

For the first time in her 23 years as a religious, Sr. Ângela de Fátima Coelho, MD, was not in Fatima, itself, for the anniversary of Our Lady’s first apparition on May 13.

Instead, she was speaking at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy to a rapt audience about three shepherd children and arguably the most consequential private revelations in the history of the Church.

To what did we owe the privilege? Simply put, Sr. Ângela — postulator for the canonization causes of Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto and vice-postulator for the beatification cause of their cousin, Lucia dos Santos — was invited by the Marians, and she said yes.

But the connection goes deeper. She’s a member of the Fatima-based religious congregation Alianca de Santa Maria, for whom the Marians have provided a chaplain for years.

“It was difficult to say no,” she said with a laugh, “because they always take care of us.”

Her visit to the Shrine on May 12-13 was part of a whirlwind trip with the Marians that included lectures in Washington, D.C., and at the Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy conference in Worcester, Massachusetts.

On May 13 — exactly 101 years after Our Lady first appeared to the three shepherd children, and one year after Pope Francis canonized Francisco and Jacinta in Fatima — Sr. Ângela stepped up to the lectern at the Shrine’s Welcome Center and delivered a stemwinder on the meaning of Fatima.

“The message of Fatima is the message of salvation,” she said. “In a world lost in wars, sin, and persecution, the announcement of God in Fatima is: ‘I have designs of mercy for you.’”

Three days prior, to a room filled with some of the United States’ leading doctors and nurses, Sr. Ângela spoke of those shepherd children and the lessons they provide to healthcare professionals today. “The essential thing,” she said, “is that if we don’t take care of our spiritual life, we will not be the instruments of His



compassion, mercy, and healing that He wants us to be.”

In all of her talks, she underscored how Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta did not seem like particularly remarkable children before the heavens opened in front of their very eyes. Jacinta, 7 years old at the time, was known to be a bit bratty. Francisco, 8, was kindhearted, a bit aloof. Lucia, 10, was precocious and cheerful.

The apparitions brought about a decisive change to

their personalities. In her first apparition, Our Lady asked the children, “Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners?”

Like Mary at the Annunciation, they said “yes.” Before the Blessed Sacrament, Francisco was driven to console Jesus because of the sins committed against Him. Jacinta was so profoundly moved by the vision of hell during the July 13 apparition that no penance seemed too

great. Lucia led her two cousins in devising penances to the point where Our Lady instructed them to go a little easier on themselves.

They hardly needed to devise sufferings. As Our Lady prophesied, the Lord would soon take Jacinta and Francisco — both victims of the Spanish flu.

As Sr. Ângela noted, Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 18:3). In order to become like children, she said, we must put away childish things — as the Fatima visionaries did — and become apt pupils of Our Lady.

Asked on May 13 if she was homesick for Fatima, Sr. Ângela looked around at the Shrine and gave a decisive “no.”

“Where there is love of Jesus and the Blessed Mother, that is Fatima, that is home,” she said.

In the first of her two talks at the Shrine, Sr. Ângela de Fátima Coelho, MD, discusses spirituality in the lives of Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto.



In her second talk at the Shrine, Sr. Ângela talks about mercy in the message of Fatima.





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Deacon Joseph Lappe, MIC, explains what it means when we say that Mary is our Spiritual Mother:



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Found the perfect house

Thanks to *Marian Helper* magazine, I read about Blessed George. We desperately needed to buy a house, so I prayed to Blessed George using the intercessory prayer. Before long, I saw an ad for a house that had just come on the market. In the photo of the kitchen there was a large Divine Mercy Image. I knew that this house was the answer to my prayers. And to top it all off, the house was right next door to my son who had newborn twins!

I pray daily to Blessed George, and he always comes through — from the birth of healthy twins to a new house. He has become a dear friend.

— MD, Dracut, Massachusetts

Blessed George heals family rift

I write to thank Blessed George for interceding for my friend Sergio and his son Jose.

Jose was involved with a group of friends who allegedly were into drugs, including his 15-year-old girlfriend. Sergio had given his son strict instructions that his friends were not allowed in his house. Then Sergio got a call from the girl's father telling him that he had found Jose with his daughter and not in school. The father said Jose had knocked him down, and the police were called. The police arrested Jose when they discovered he was on drugs.

Jose and Sergio eventually were not on speaking terms after Sergio took measures to separate his son from his friends.



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

It was at this same time that I read about Blessed George in your magazine. I prayed to Blessed George for his intercession with Sergio and Jose. After two weeks of daily prayers, my prayers were answered. Sergio said his son was back to normal and their relationship had been healed.

— EP, Forrest City, Arizona

Son gets two job offers

My middle-aged son has lost two jobs and quit several others due to various circumstances, none of which looked good on his employment history. He had been out of work for more than seven months, receiving more than 100 rejection letters and going on dozens of interviews. He has two small children and was in despair by the time I learned about Blessed George in *Marian Helper* magazine. I began to pray daily to Blessed George for his intercession.

On Easter week, my son got two offers for very high-paying executive positions with full benefits. His new job began on May 1, 2017, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. I have no doubt about the loving, effective intercession of Blessed George.

— CH, Fair Oaks, California

For a Blessed George prayercard (B38-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: graces@marian.org.

Please join us in praying a novena to Blessed George

The Marian Fathers have a request. Please join us in praying a novena to Blessed George for the complete healing of our employee here at the Marian Helpers Center, Suzanne Zavatter, who has cancer. (Read her story here.) Specifically, please pray the novena to Blessed George Matulaitis (1871-1927). Indeed, the man who saved the Marian Fathers from the brink of extinction, has proven himself a powerful intercessor for seemingly lost causes. Please bring prayers for Suzanne before him through this novena.

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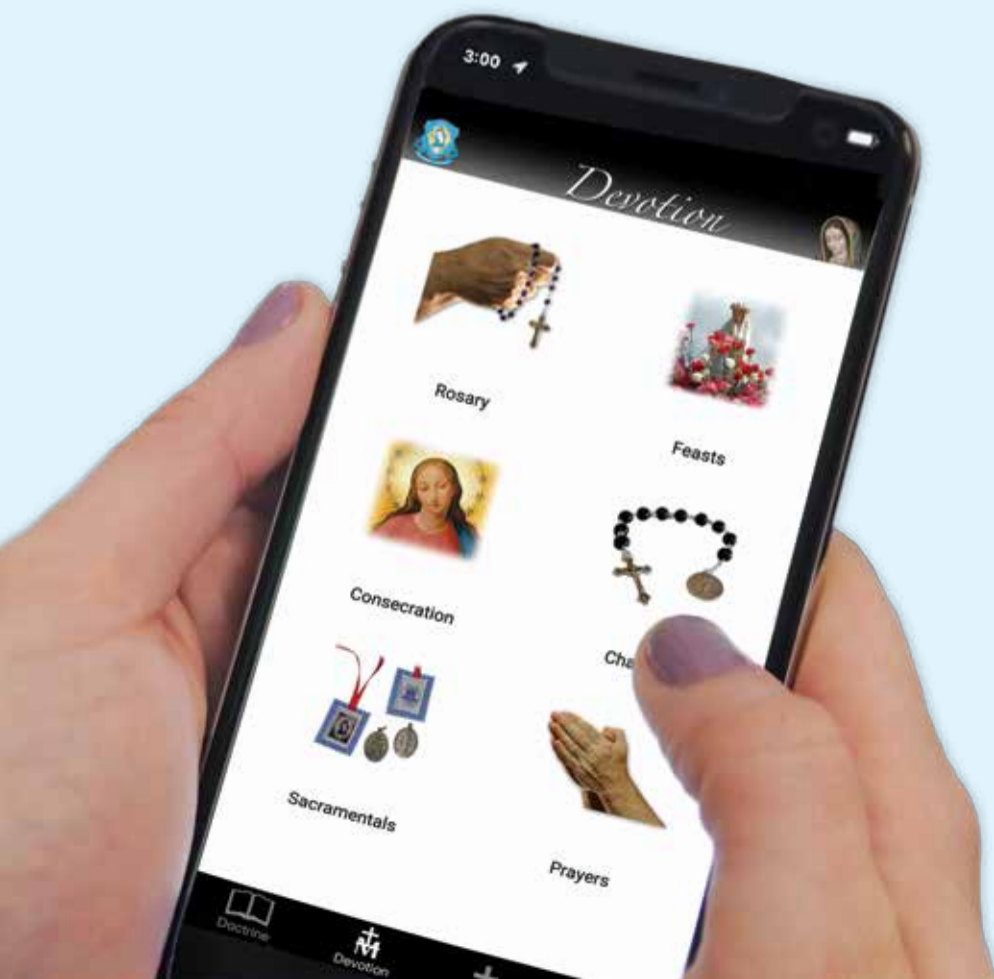
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HER PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS ARE ANSWERED

For over a decade, Sharon Marino of Riverside, New Jersey, has prayed outside the abortion clinic near her home. One day, she prayed, “Lord, I’ve been praying to save babies’ lives for years. Please let me see a life saved.” Her prayer was soon answered when she got to witness a mother choosing to bring her baby to term.

Sharon attends daily Mass, and at each Mass, she offers a prayer of thanks for the gift of the priesthood. She says, “Without the priests, we couldn’t have Confession or the Eucharist.” She also prays for several seminarians — the priests of tomorrow — by name.

One of the young men she prayed for was named Anthony. Years ago, he and Sharon were in a prayer group that met on Sunday evenings. Sensing he was discerning a call to the priesthood, she invited him to an event about priestly vocations. He ultimately joined the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. After years of seminary training and many prayers offered by Sharon and others, Anthony was ordained to the priesthood. Maybe you know him: Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, the rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

That was how Sharon first heard about the Marian Fathers. Sharon and Fr. Anthony have stayed in touch. When Sharon’s mother was in her final days, Fr. Anthony, his father, and Sharon prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at her bedside. Her mother, a prayer warrior, said the Rosary and the Chaplet every day. When the Lord called Sharon’s mother home during the Hour of Great Mercy on Jan. 1, the Feast of the Mother of God, Sharon offered thanks for such a blessing.

From the time of Fr. Anthony’s ordination, Sharon has continued to pray for men discerning a vocation with the Marians. When she hears that a Marian is going to be ordained, she offers a Holy Hour for him and sends him

a card to let him know that she continues to keep him in her daily prayers.

Sharon also financially supports the seminarians, and she’s thrilled to see that the Marian Congregation continues to grow. She has no doubt that God is blessing the Marian Fathers with strong vocations because they are faithful to the teachings of the Church. “It’s a joy to support an order of priests who are holy and devout,” she says.

Sharon has also thought about the future of the Marians. When she prepared her last will and testament, she included a gift to support the Marian seminarians. These future Marians will continue to administer the Sacraments and promote devotion to Mary Immaculate, the Divine Mercy, and the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

If you would like to read some of the vocation stories of current Marian seminarians, find a prayer for vocations, or learn about the process of becoming a Marian priest or brother, please visit marian.org/VocSupport.

If you would like to join Sharon in supporting Marian vocations, please get in touch with me. I also encourage you to take some time to review your will and other plans and, if necessary, update them. If you would like to arrange a gift to the Marian Fathers in your will or other estate plans, I would be happy to assist you and your advisors.



Ellen Miller is director for Special Gifts. Contact her at (413) 298-1380; helpers@marian.org; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit marian.org/PlannedGiving to learn more.

Summer reads



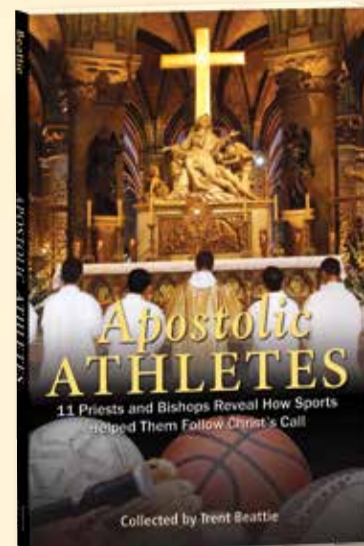
How Can You Still Be Catholic? 50 Answers to a Good Question

Cradle Catholic Christopher Sparks asked his Facebook friends to finish the question: "How can you still be Catholic when . . .?" And then he answered them, including recommended reading for those who want to go deeper. These questions touch on some of the biggest issues people grapple with when they think about the Catholic Church: the Inquisition; the Crusades; the Church's role in a state; homosexuality; women in the Church; and more. **B38-BCBB • \$14.95**

Apostolic Athletes

11 Priests and Bishops Reveal How Sports Helped Them Follow Christ's Call

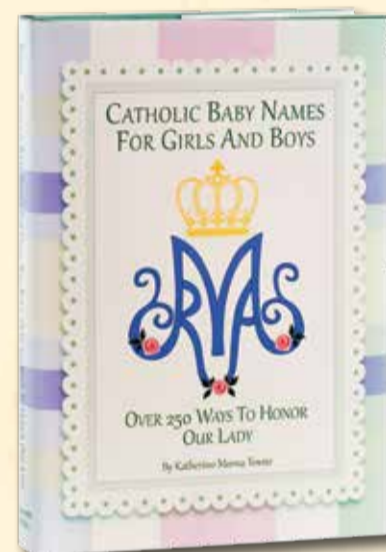
The perfect gift for the sports-obsessed person in your life! Gathering the testimonies of 11 athletes turned priests and bishops, Catholic journalist Trent Beattie's latest book bears witness to the surprising ways the mercy of God can call us into His service. **B38-ATHL • \$14.95**



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This roomy tote has plenty of pockets to keep you organized. A zippered closure and sturdy polyester construction will stand up to frequent use. Teal and grey print. Bag imprint reads, "Do justice, love goodness, walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). 18 ¾" x 14" x 4 ½". **B38-MTBC • \$12.99**



Guardian Angel Visor Clip

Put this adorable angel on your car visor as a reminder to "Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly." Made from recycled aluminum alloy. Painted and hand polished. Measures 3". **B38-VISOR • \$5.95**



Divine Mercy Luggage Tag

A great gift for the travelers in your life. Flexible, 2" x 3 ½" plastic tag includes lanyard for attaching to luggage. **B38-LDMT • \$1.95**

Grace your garden



Mosaic Glass Memorial Garden Stone

Add a lasting memorial to your garden or outdoor space. Memorial garden stone with mosaic glass heart detailing and heartfelt sentiment, "Missing you deeply and remembering your love, as you sit with the angels in Heaven above." Durable, lightweight polystone with stone finish. 6" x 2 1/2" x 8 1/2".

B38-MEST • \$24.95



"Praise the Lord" Garden Stone

Add a touch of prayerful beauty to your garden or lawn. Stone finished resin. 10" diameter.

B38-PTLS • \$28.95



St. Francis Shrine

A beautiful addition to your garden decor. This 11 1/2" resin sculpture of St. Francis sits inside its own tin roof shrine. Mounted on a 23 1/2" wooden stake. Assembly required.

B38-STFS • \$54.95

In Loving Memory Garden Stake

Place this memorial garden stake in your plant pot or garden as a gentle reminder of your loved ones. Engraved with flowers and the sentiment, "The Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." 2 1/2" wide on 10" high stake.

B38-ILMS • \$7.95



Order Info

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders; 2-4 weeks for mail orders.

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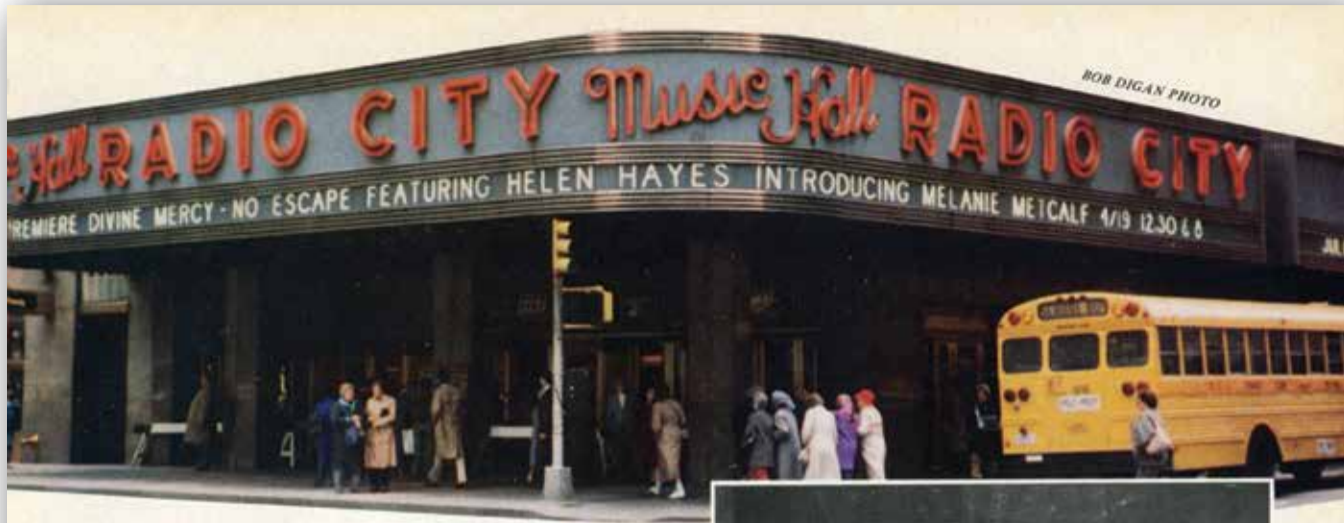
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Canada

Postage costs may vary for online orders.



East Coast Premiere

Almost 8,000 Marian Helpers and others from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts turned out on April 19, 1988 for the East Coast premiere of *Divine Mercy — No Escape* at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The two showings had a touch of show biz in the Hollywood manner: audience enthusiasm, on-stage personalities, press interview and an organ concert preceding the movie. Introduced to the audience by Fr. Richard Drabik, M.I.C., Provincial Superior of the Marians, were: America's first lady of the theater, Helen Hayes, narrator of the film; Melanie Metcalf, who plays Sister Faustina; and director Hermann Tauchert.

After the midday showing, close to 3,000 proceeded to St. Patrick's Cathedral for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark and many clergy. The inspired standing-room-only congregation brought the spirit of the movie to the Liturgy. Framed images of the Merciful Savior were presented to Archbishop McCarrick and to the rector of the Cathedral.

We Marians feel excited and grateful that God has entrusted us to be special promoters of His mercy. We thank all who attended the premiere and all who helped make the undertaking possible. May the message spread far and wide.



B & W Photos © LAURA MUELLER, 1988.



Thirty years ago, the Summer issue of Marian Helpers Bulletin featured this write-up on the East Coast premiere of the feature-length film "Divine Mercy: No Escape," which tells the story of *St. Faustina*, played by actress Melanie Metcalf. Oscar and Tony Award winner Helen Hayes narrated the film. The screenplay was written in part by *Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC*, the vice-postulator for the cause of canonization for *St. Faustina*. Filmed in Poland, the Vatican, Germany, and the United States, "Divine Mercy: No Escape" helped open hearts and minds to the message of Divine Mercy. Mother Angelica accepted it for viewing on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) right from the start.

MH

You can order a DVD of the film by visiting ShopMercy.org/b38 or by calling 1-800-462-7426. (Product code: B38-DMDVD)

Br. Scott, MIC, shares how Mary helps him discern the will of God and follow His path.



Live the call!



Marian Helpers Carol (left), Tom, and Peggy:

We are so thankful for having shared in Br. Scott's journey as we followed our own call to support seminarians. We have watched, prayed, and encouraged him as he found his way to the Marians, having heard the call to the priesthood. It is a joy to see him among young, holy apostles in today's Church. We laud the Marians for welcoming this young man who shares their zeal for the Gospel and their joyful approach to embracing it. We will continue to pray and trust in God as Br. Scott prepares for his perpetual vows this fall.

Brother Scott, MIC:

I was first introduced to the Marians in college through Fr. Donald Calloway's conversion story. In time, God's mercy would ignite my own conversion — stirring up a call to the priesthood heard back when I was in CCD classes. After leaving college to discern a priestly vocation, I again heard of the Marians from one of my dad's friends who was a Eucharistic Apostle of The Divine Mercy. When I visited for a weeklong retreat with the Marians, I encountered a community of young, orthodox men dedicated to following Christ under the mantle of Our Lady. I felt at home and have continued to experience His peace here.

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:

Aug. 24-26,
Sept. 14-16
Nov. 23-25
Dec. 7-9

Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org

Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806

Visit: marian.org/vocations

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

Support

Want to help the seminarians?

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