

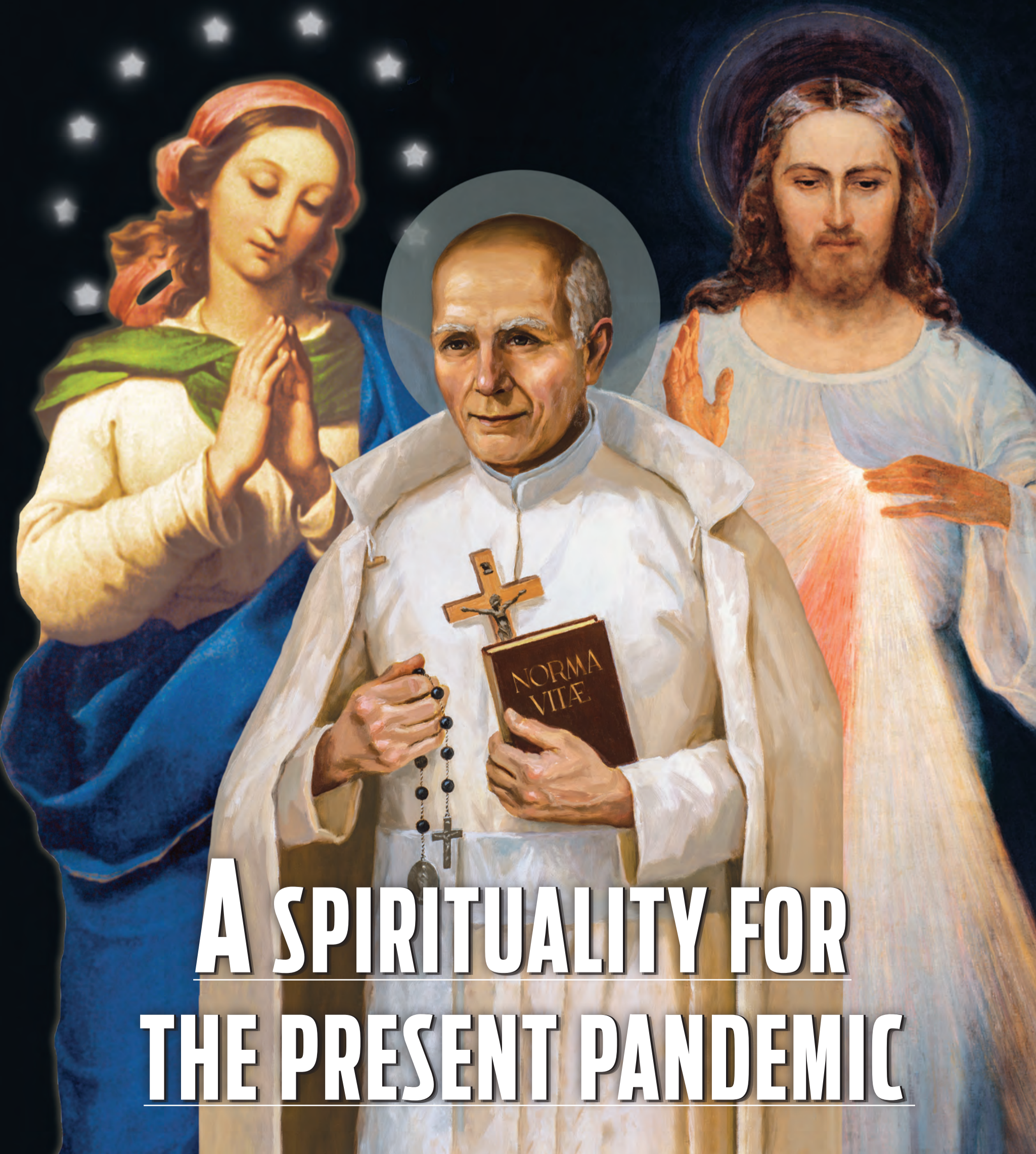
'Now is the time of St. Joseph' — Bishops embrace consecration

Summer 2020

# Marian Helper

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

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

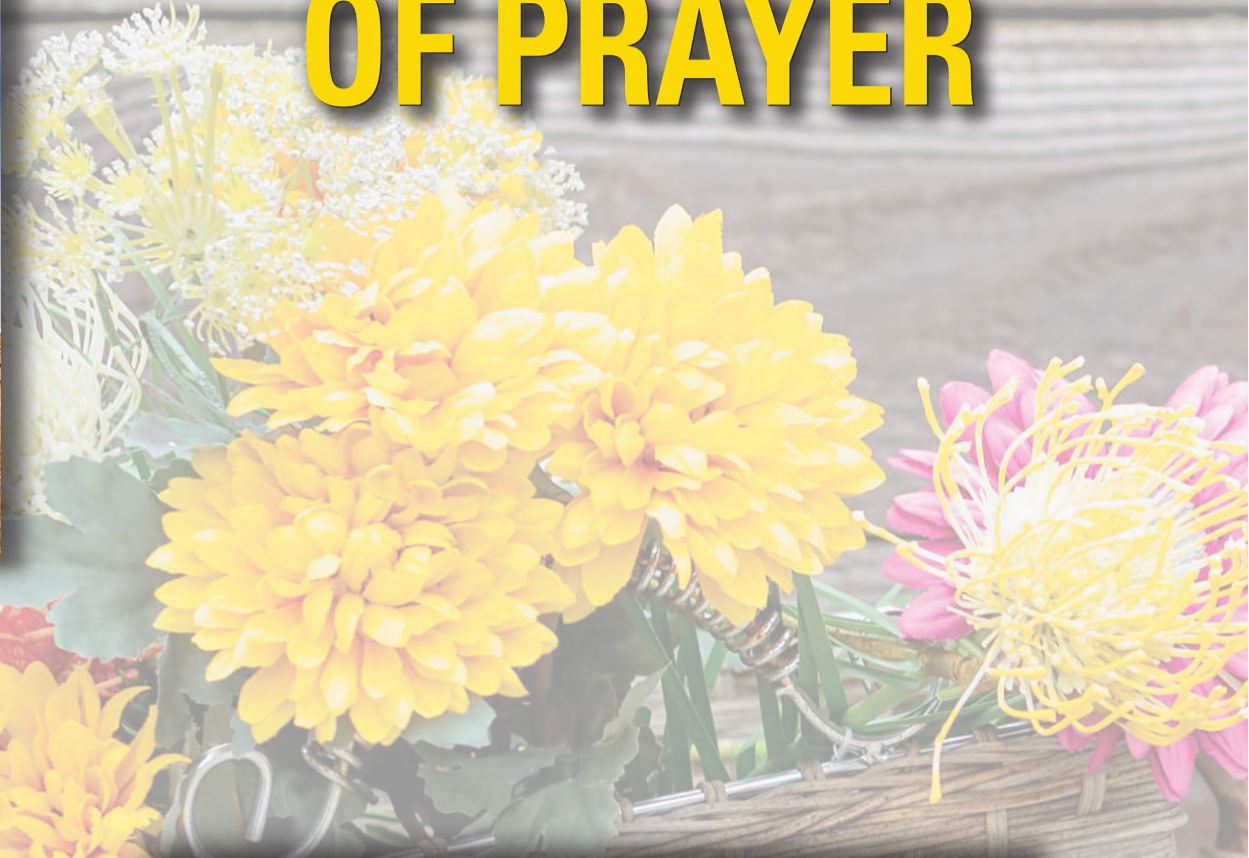


**A SPIRITUALITY FOR  
THE PRESENT PANDEMIC**



**BLESSINGS ON YOUR RETIREMENT**  
**B46-RMT19**

# GIVE A PROMISE OF PRAYER



**"HEAL ME" OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
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Fr. Joseph explains enrollments.

Your offering supports the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

# 20 A SPIRITUALITY FOR THE PRESENT PANDEMIC

In their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Marian Fathers encounter nothing they haven't lived through before. Plus — why is the Marian Fathers' Founder a saint specifically for these times?

## 10 Seal the doorposts!

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, the Divine Mercy Image goes public in a big way.

## 12 'Corona of Mercy'

A precious package arrives from the past signaling a message for today.

## 14 Amidst crisis, go to St. Joseph

The new book by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, has inspired a new Catholic movement focused on the foster father of Jesus.

## 18 It's all connected

How can the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary provide us with hope for eternity?

## 24 A message of comfort

Here's what Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, does on his good days. And here's what he does on his bad days.

## 26 The school of charity

We continue our exploration of the Church's social teaching, this time focusing on marriage and the family.

## DEPARTMENTS

3 Father Joseph Writes   4 Marian Helpers in Action   6 Faces of Mercy   8 Father Joseph's Picks   9 Notes from Rome  
31 Outstanding Helpers   33 Graces Received   36 From the Vaults

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### MISSION STATEMENT

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## Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

The Marian Fathers 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 Marian Fathers. 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.



You Tube



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

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- **Support a particular ministry:** [marian.org/give](http://marian.org/give)
- **Create a memorial or tribute:** [MemorialsOnEdenHill.org](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org)
- **Arrange a special gift** of stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: [marian.org/PlannedGiving](http://marian.org/PlannedGiving)

Call 1-800-671-2020 to make a gift by phone or for assistance.

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of our devotions



Catholicism: The  
Fullness of the Truth



Confession and  
Divine Mercy

## FATHER JOSEPH WRITES

# A 'NEW SPRINGTIME,' INDEED

**T**hink back to March. None of us were prepared for what was about to happen. Then the coronavirus struck, economies collapsed, society shut down, and, shockingly, even churches closed.

For a moment, it seemed as if evil were having the last word. Some predicted the end of the Church. To many, it seemed that God may have abandoned us. I admit, I wondered myself if God was simply stepping back and letting us sort through all this ourselves so that He could then finally say, "I told you so."

Well now, as spring turns to summer, I'm more shocked than I was even in March. Why? Because, throughout this pandemic, God has seen to it to lift us up to new heights. By "us," I mean the Body of Christ, His Church, and the Association of Marian Helpers itself.

When the churches closed, many thought this would be the end of our Divine Mercy ministry. After all, we had to cancel our conferences and parish missions. We had to close the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy to visitors, including on Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend.

But something amazing happened. We took it all to prayer and then devised a plan. First, we made great leaps in our digital capabilities in order to provide daily livestreaming of our Masses and devotions through Facebook, TheDivineMercy.org, and YouTube. We doubled up on providing timely spiritual reflections in the form of online articles and videos. We launched a campaign to make sure every family had free access to the Divine Mercy Image (see page 10).

Now, thousands of people tune in each and every day to our livestreams. We reached 13 million viewers on Divine Mercy Sunday alone through our TV broadcast and online streaming. And since the pandemic began, we've been swamped with phone calls, emails, and letters from people who simply wish to thank us for our broadcasts, articles, videos, books, and other resources that have helped change their lives and turn to Christ.



Through our work, fallen-away Catholics are returning to the Church. Non-Catholics are asking about Divine Mercy.

God always wants to bring a greater good out of even the worst evil. I suspect we may be witnessing that "new springtime" for the Church, a renewal through the spread of the Gospel, anticipated by Pope St. John Paul II (see Redemptoris Missio, 2). That's what it feels like to me.

And though the Marian Fathers' ministries look quite different today, we have the same goal: to save souls.

And though the world is so very different today, Jesus Christ remains the same — our Merciful Savior who tells us through St. Faustina, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 300).

Our work is as critical as ever. To that end, let me be very clear: Like never before, we are inspired to persevere because of the love and support of our Marian Helpers. *You* keep our mission going. It is your prayers and your financial assistance.

And so I humbly ask for your continued help. If God puts it on your heart to donate to our mission, we will use it for great good. The fact of the matter is, we were not prepared for the pandemic — specifically, for such a profound redirection of our evangelization efforts. We need funds for equipment, training, and online services so that, through online streaming and video production, we can continue to reach more souls than we've ever reached before.

Please visit TheDivineMercy.org/donate or call 1-800-462-7426.

Thank you!

May Almighty God bless you.

*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.



**In pandemic,  
'prayer is just  
as powerful  
as action'**

JIM MONTANARO

**M**arian Helper Marie Romagnano of Charlton, Massachusetts, founded Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy in the wake of 9/11. Now, in the face of another large-scale tragedy, Nurse Marie has been doing all she can to help prepare healthcare professionals to bring the graces of the Divine Mercy message and devotion to patients isolated in ICU units, all too often cut off from family, friends, and even clergy in their final moments.

**What makes this pandemic a unique challenge for our healthcare professionals?**

Before this pandemic, there was no healthcare professional in the world that was used to seeing five to 10 people a day die on their unit. I've been an intensive care nurse for years, and a catastrophic injury manager. I'm used to going into the ICUs, and I honestly thought I had seen it all, especially with the big health centers in Boston. None of us have seen anything like this before. We're seeing unprecedented complications with this virus and the need for ventilators.

**What do Catholic healthcare professionals facing this pandemic need to know about how their faith can and should inform their work?**

Nurses and doctors need to realize their vocation is caring not only for the physical needs of the patient, but

for their spiritual needs, especially when pastoral care is not available. The Lord has placed healthcare professionals at their bedside. Our responsibility in front of the Lord is to try to do everything possible to save these people, and at the same time, realize that these patients are in God's hands.

Healthcare professionals need an awareness of how powerful prayer is. They have to call on the Lord Jesus and Our Lady to help them, because as Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, says, our presence at the bedside is the merciful presence of Jesus. We may be the last ones to have a chance to put a cross at the bedside so the patient can gain the plenary indulgence. We're the last ones to say, "Jesus, I trust in You," or recite the Act of Contrition within earshot of the patient. They may not be visibly responsive, but their hearing is usually the last sense to go.

**What do people need to know about this pandemic going forward?**

We really need to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines and what the local government administration is telling us to do. Be meticulous about washing your hands, not touching your face, social distancing, and wearing a mask in public because that not only protects you, but other people, as well.

And we definitely need to pray. This cannot be over-

come just by manpower. The healthcare professionals and all the national services are already overwhelmed. For me, not being able to go physically back on the ICU is heartbreaking. The only reason I'm not working is because I have giant cell arteritis. I'm immunosuppressed. I can't go anywhere. But people have to recognize that prayer is just as powerful as action, when you're not able to go there. We can't physically go to the ICUs, but we can help in the ICUs with prayer.

### **What saints are you turning to in this pandemic?**

Of course I'm praying to Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and to Our Lady, the Heavenly Nurse and Help of the Sick. And then, of course, St. Stanislaus Papczynski, the Founder of the Marians. His canonization miracle was healing Barbara Rudzik, who had her lungs shredded like these coronavirus patients have ([see page 22](#)). Saint Stanislaus is absolutely the saint for this. I'm also praying to the children of Fatima, Sts. Francisco and Jacinta, who died because of the Spanish flu pandemic, and Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, the first lay nurse to be beatified, specifically for healthcare professionals.

### **How has Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy been responding to the pandemic?**

We released a free digital edition of *Nursing with the Hands of Jesus: A Guide to Nurses for Divine Mercy*, the nurse's manual I wrote with Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, and Fr. Seraphim to promote nurses taking care of patients spiritually as well as physically. We want every single healthcare professional to have it in their hands.

We also released a new Healthcare Spiritual Ministry Kit that includes a hard copy of *Nursing with the Hands of Jesus*, Rosary beads, a Miraculous Medal, a Divine Mercy pin, a Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer card, an emergency Divine Mercy prayer card, and a Blessed Hanna prayer card (visit [ShopMercy.org/hpdm](http://ShopMercy.org/hpdm)).

Normally, healthcare professionals can rely on their hospital's pastoral department to spiritually care for their patients. But with new protocols to help slow the spread of the virus, chaplains cannot always be present. So we've made these resources available to help healthcare professionals spiritually care for their patients. MH

— Chris Sparks

## **Rest in peace, dear brothers**



**Fr. Casimir Krzyzynowski, MIC**



**Br. Leonard Konopka, MIC**

One was a former prisoner of war during World War II. The other worked on the crew that built the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

The Marian Fathers mourn the deaths of Fr. Casimir Krzyzynowski, MIC, who died on Jan. 17, at the age of 97, and Br. Leonard Konopka, MIC, who died on April 5, at the age of 86.

Father Casimir, a walking and talking storehouse of Marian history, was born on Dec. 17, 1922, in Lublin, Poland. He fought with the Polish Patriots in the Warsaw Uprising and became a prisoner of war in Austria until he was freed by American troops at the end of World War II.

He joined the Marian Fathers in 1948 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1956. He wrote the *positio* for the beatification cause of the Marians' Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski. He prepared the text for a book on the life of the Founder, called *Under the Banner of Mary Immaculate*, and the *Collective Writings of St. Stanislaus*.

For many years, he contributed to the formation of the novices in the United States. He spent the last year of his life in the nursing home of the Little Sisters of the Poor across the street from the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C. Fellow Marians were with him on the day of his death. When they played a recording of St. John Paul II praying the Rosary in Polish, tears ran down Fr. Casimir's face. He died moments later.

Brother Leonard was born on Aug. 8, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan. He joined the Marians in 1951 and professed final vows in 1958. He helped with the construction of the Shrine in Stockbridge. His work included carving some of the decorative wood pieces. Always ready with a smile and a humorous line, Br. Leonard was like a brother to all. He organized the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration each year at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

He said what drew him to become a religious brother was the desire to serve others the way Christ did. The Marians still recall with fondness his Saturday morning eggs, his love for the Washington Redskins, and how he would describe any tasty food as "deadly!" or even "double deadly!"

The earthly remains of both men were buried in the Marian Cemetery in Stockbridge.

# FACES OF MERCY

## John Palileo

Manila City, Philippines

We watched the papal address and apostolic blessing telecast by Pope Francis live on March 27. The time here in the Philippines during that coverage was 1 a.m. I didn't sleep. I waited for 1 a.m., praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary. We felt the intimate silence of that blessing here in our house. We could feel the presence of God during those moments, as if He were saying, "Do not be afraid. I am here with you until the end of time."



## Diane Hendrix

Lakewood, New York

Being isolated in our home, ordering groceries to be delivered, homeschooling our children, canceling vacation plans, not being able to visit family or friends, and hearing terrible news reports regarding this pandemic — this all put me into a state of anxiety. Looking for some sort of consolation, I heard an inner voice tell me to read entry 991 of St. Faustina's Diary:

Today, I saw how the Holy Mysteries were being celebrated without liturgical vestments and in private homes, because of a passing storm; and I saw the sun come out from the Blessed Sacrament, and all other lights went out, or rather, they were dimmed; and all the people were looking toward this [one] light. But at the present time I do not understand the meaning of this vision.

I believe St. Faustina's vision may very well have been about the spring of 2020. All churches are closed. There is no public Mass. We are celebrating Mass and the Easter season privately in our homes, watching via livestream as priests celebrate Mass alone in empty churches.

"All other lights ... were dimmed," that is, our lives, our preoccupations, our activities have all been [diminished]. But as we celebrate the "Holy Mysteries" from home, we are focused on that "one light," Jesus, while all other lights are dimmed. ... If we keep looking towards the "one light," He will guide us through the storm.

So, with that, my prayer was answered. My anxiety faded, knowing that at all times and in all circumstances, Jesus walks with us.

## Gianna (right) and Gabe Nelson

Rockaway, New Jersey

We used to go to daily Mass, and we had begun to take Mass for granted. Now, because we cannot go to Mass, we are longing for it and excited for the day when we can receive the Eucharist again.

We've been watching Fr. Chris Alar's videos. Seeing how the Marian priests take care of the spiritual wellbeing of God's children has given us all a renewed thankfulness for the blessing we have in the Catholic Church in the priesthood.



## Lynda Caya

Grafton, Massachusetts

Sunday, March 15, marked the first Sunday that I was prevented from attending Mass due to COVID-19.

Immediately, I went to the “[Divine Mercy \(official\)](#)” Facebook page. I was overjoyed with your offerings and watched your [Mass](#). I could not get enough. It left me sobbing — not crying, but sobbing — in thanksgiving for having Christ in my life.

I am a registered nurse who gave up a career in medicine for my children. One day, as I watched the Chaplet, I asked God: “Why am I not on the medical front lines?” As I asked that question, I turned to St. Faustina’s *Diary*, opening it to a random page. It was *Diary* entry 1435:

Daily I make great efforts  
To take part in community life,  
Thereby gaining graces for souls’ salvation,  
Shielding them by my sacrifice from the fire of hell.

For the salvation of even a single soul  
Is worth the sacrifice of a lifetime  
And the bearing of the greatest sacrifices and torments,  
Seeing how great the glory it gives God.

I think God is letting me know it’s OK to not be on the medical front lines — that His plan is that I take part in daily Mass, the Chaplet, and Rosary, to pray for the sick and dying.



## Father Michael Champagne, CJC

St. Martinville, Louisiana

We’re running [mobile Confession](#). So, people pull up, and I sit there in a mask. People have been literally crying in gratitude. People are suffering because they hunger for the Eucharist. They say, “Father ... For years, I’ve been faithful, but I’ve been taking it for granted. I’m really sorry for being so insensitive to the great gift we have in the Mass and the Sacraments.” When we get back to public Masses, sparks will fly.

If we preach the Gospel clearly, and if we live it authentically, we’re going to see the Church double in size in no time.

MH

— Marc Massery



## The bear he crossed

Maybe you’ve read the reports of how, with diminished human activity due to the coronavirus, wild animals have been spied strolling into well-settled areas around the world. Well, Kevin Dougherty, our executive director here at the Marian Helpers Center, recently witnessed a large black bear in his backyard. The bear had a terrible limp. Kevin watched amazed as the bear sat down beside a stone statue of St. Francis and put its paw around the saint’s shoulders as if showing affection. The bear then rolled around in the grass for awhile before returning to St. Francis and once again putting its paw around Francis’ shoulders. Kevin remains on the lookout for the bear to see if St. Francis interceded to heal the bear of its limp.

## A dream interpreted

*From Marian Helper Stephanie Sadler:*

After my mother’s death, I began attending Divine Mercy prayer meetings. After the meeting one week, we found our cars had been broken into. I returned home despairing, wondering why I had bothered to take up this devotion. Were we really helping the souls of the dying or those long dead? That same night, I had a vivid dream of speeding along in a car driven by a young man. All the windows were playing violent video games. Suddenly, the games cleared away, and we raced toward a gaping black hole. “No!” I shouted. The driver and I popped out of the car and floated in space. I clearly saw the young man’s astonished face.

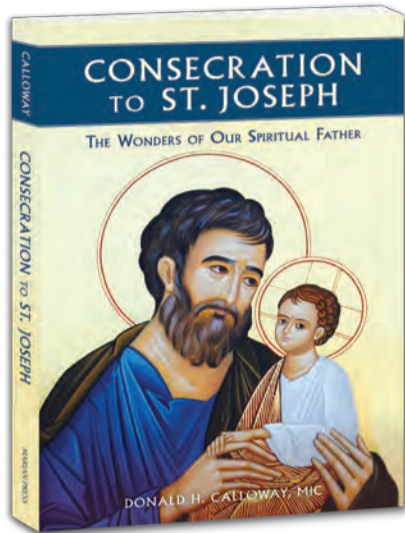
All day, I begged the Holy Spirit to enlighten me as to the dream’s meaning. That afternoon, I read a terrible story in the newspaper. A young man who loved fast cars and violent video games had gotten into a crash that killed several people, including himself. I looked at his picture. He was the man in my dream! I was terrified at first. But I soon felt that God was showing me the immense power of the Divine Mercy Chaplet to help save the dead and dying from eternal damnation. I have been dedicated to the Divine Mercy devotion ever since.

MH

## FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b46](http://ShopMercy.org/b46) or call 1-800-462-7426.

The year 2020 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration that gave St. Joseph the title of "Universal Patron of the Church." In honor of that anniversary, we've gathered a list of materials, old and new, that will help you come to know and love your spiritual father all the better!



### CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH: THE WONDERS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

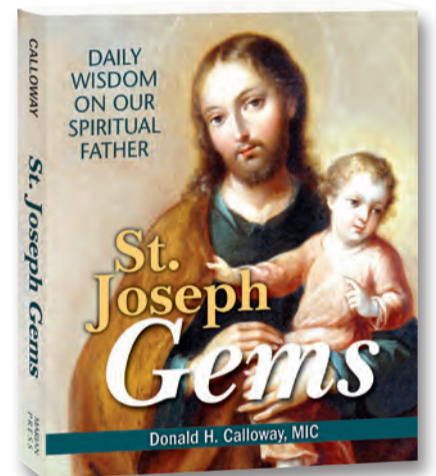
BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

**D**efinitely a book for our time, the runaway bestseller *Consecration to St. Joseph* by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, draws on the wealth of the Church's living tradition and calls on all of us to entrust ourselves to our spiritual father's loving care. This book has everything you need to take your love and devotion to St. Joseph to the next level: a thorough program of consecration to St. Joseph; information on the 10 wonders of St. Joseph; and prayers and devotions to St. Joseph. \$14.95. **B46-FCSJ**

### SAINT JOSEPH GEMS

BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

**I**nspired by his own love for St. Joseph (also known as the "Terror of Demons" and the "Universal Patron of the Church"), Fr. Calloway has gathered and arranged into one book the largest collection of quotes about St. Joseph to ever appear in print. Selected from the writings of popes, saints, blessed, and the many venerables of the Church, these quotes shed light on St. Joseph's incredible power as an intercessor, his sublime sanctity, and his relevance as a model and a helper in our everyday lives. \$12.95. **B46-SJEM**



### ACT OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH PRAYER CARD

**S**aint Joseph Consecration Prayer featuring the beautiful iconographic image. Saint Joseph is lovingly and adoringly gazing at his divine Son, while the Child Jesus holds the hand of his earthly father. **B46-SJCPC**

**Prayer cards:** 10 FOR \$1.20 • 100 FOR \$10.00 • 1,000 FOR \$60.00

### SAINT JOSEPH CANVAS ART (10" X 18")

ARTIST: BERNADETTE CARSTENSEN (2020)

**C**ommissioned by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, for his book *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, the image depicts St. Joseph holding the Child Jesus who is piercing a serpent with the lily-spear of his earthly father. PRICE (NOT INCLUDING S&H): GALLERY-WRAPPED \$19.95; BLACK-FRAMED: \$39.95; GOLD-FRAMED: \$49.95 **B46-WC10GW**

Please note: The watermark writing on the image does not appear on the canvas image.



# IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

**I**t seems like Pope Francis was speaking for all of us when he said in an interview just before Easter, “I am living this moment with great uncertainty.”



Fr. Joe talks about these uncertain times.

At the beginning of this year, when we first heard about COVID-19, we had no idea how it would completely change our world. In February, I traveled to Cameroon with another Marian. We had our temperatures taken on arrival, and we saw some travelers wearing surgical masks, which was still unusual at that time. We returned without any problems, just before some countries began to not accept flights from Italy.

In March, I was disappointed when my planned Divine Mercy parish mission in New York was canceled. By the time the weekend of the mission arrived, all public Masses in the Archdiocese of New York had been canceled. Very quickly, the rest of the world began to experience what we had been experiencing in Italy as this pandemic spread everywhere.

While we were still able to freely travel around Rome before the lockdown, I felt inspired one day to go to the Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray before the image of Our Lady, *Salus Populi Romani*, in the chapel where Pope Francis always goes to pray before and after his international journeys.

A tradition holds that it was painted by St. Luke on a table top that Jesus had built in St. Joseph’s workshop. Mary is believed to have told St. Luke about the life of Jesus while he was painting the icon. Pope St. Gregory the Great carried the image in procession during a plague here in the sixth century. At Hadrian’s Mausoleum (today known as Castel Sant’Angelo), a choir of angels was heard singing *Regina Caeli* (“O Queen of Heaven, Rejoice!”). Pope St. Gregory asked the angels to intercede before God. Saint Michael the Archangel appeared placing his sword in its scabbard, signaling the end of the plague. This was later depicted in a statue that stands atop the castle to this day.

In March, Pope Francis prayed before that image of Our Lady. He also visited the Church of St. Marcellus to pray before a 14<sup>th</sup> century crucifix that had miraculously survived a fire and was credited with saving Rome from a plague in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Pope Francis had the crucifix and the icon of Our Lady brought to the Vatican for his



The Basilica of St. Mary Major is Fr. Joe’s favorite place to visit in Rome. It’s also one of Pope Francis’ favorite places — due to this icon of Our Lady.

prayer to end the pandemic and for the Holy Week celebrations. His prayer in St. Peter’s Square was a powerful and dramatic moment. In the pouring rain, he blessed the world with the Blessed Sacrament.

That title of Our Lady’s image — *Salus Populi Romani* — means “health or salvation of the Roman people.” The Marians’ Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), often used the Latin expression “*Immaculata Virginis Mariae Conceptio, sit nobis salus et protectio*” (“May the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary be our health [or salvation] and protection”).

The ultimate healing is eternal life or salvation. God preserved Mary from all stain of sin in the gift of her Immaculate Conception. It is a sign for us of what God wants to do for each of us. May He heal us, purify us, save us, and help us to find Jesus and the gift of everlasting life.

Saint Stanislaus would remind us to always pray for the deceased, especially those who were unprepared to meet the Lord. And let us trust in Jesus during these uncertain times. As Jesus once said, “Fear is useless, what is needed is trust” (Mk 5:36).

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



Countless Marian Helpers responded to the idea to seal their doors with a Divine Mercy Image. Top row, from left: the door of Edwina Dayao-Yevoli of Bellerose, New York; Teri Moore of Henderson, Tennessee; and the home of a Divine Mercy prayer group member from Bayside, Queens, New York. Middle row: Dolores DePino of New Haven, Connecticut; tweeted by Erin Martin; the rectory of St. Gregory the Great, Queens, New York. Bottom row: the door of Christy Cooley DeShazo of Argyle, Texas; tweeted by Jane Toms; and Sharon Scanlon of Little Falls, New York.

# Seal the doorposts!

Amidst pandemic, the Image goes public in a big way

By Terry Peloquin

Since early March, as a way to reach out during the coronavirus pandemic, families around the world have been posting pictures in their windows. Chil-

dren displayed rainbow artwork as a sign of hopefulness. Others taped heart-shaped cutouts to their windows to show appreciation for healthcare professionals.



Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, asks Marian Helpers to put the Divine Mercy Image on their front doors.

But in a video on March 25, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC (“Fr. Joseph, MIC,” director of the Association of Marian Helpers), asked Marian Helpers to put something on their front doors: the Divine Mercy Image, facing outward, to express trust in the Lord’s promise of protection and as a prayer and witness of faith.

The response has been stunning.

Within a week, Fr. Chris’ “Seal the Doorposts” video on [YouTube](#) had almost half a million views. The number of views is now up to over 700,000. News outlets around the world have written about it.

Marian Helpers from five continents have helped to promote the campaign.

Dolores DePino of New Haven, Connecticut, said, “I worked for the military for 29 years. When the men went to war, we posted a yellow ribbon on each tree for their safe return. What better way to stay safe than in the rays of the Divine Mercy? He is giving me strength, keeping me safe, and filling me with His love. Thank you, Fr. Chris, for telling us to post the Divine Mercy picture on our front door.”

Caridad DeJesus of New York, New York, said, “I put it on my door, and the next day I opened the door and saw my neighbor across from me posted a picture on her door, too!”

Edwina Dayao-Yevoli of Bellerose, New York, said, “I shared your video with all my church friends, including one of our priests at St. Gregory the Great. Today, as my husband and I walked and passed by our rectory, I noticed that our rectory’s door was sealed with the Image of our Lord Jesus, the Divine Mercy.”

## Jesus’ promises

In his video, Fr. Chris explains that the Divine Mercy Image represents the Lord, from whose Heart flows Blood and Water, the streams of God’s mercy upon the whole world. The Lord promises us through [St. Faustina](#) “that the soul that will venerate [honor] this image will not perish” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 48). The Lord also promises “victory over [our] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death” and to “defend [us] as [His] own glory” (*Diary*, 48).

The Lord said, “By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it” (*Diary*, 570).

As published by the Marian Fathers in 1945, St. Faustina’s confessor, [Blessed Michael Sopocko](#), recalled additional promises our Lord made through St. Faustina regarding the Image, including:

When chastisements for sins come upon the world

and your own country will experience utter degradation, the only refuge will be trust in My mercy. I will protect the cities and homes in which the Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My mercy.

Father Sopocko recalled that Jesus told another Polish mystic of Divine Mercy for whom he served as spiritual director, Sr. Helena Majewska, in 1940:

Let everyone procure for their homes this Image because there will yet come trials. And those homes, and entire families, and everyone individually who will hold this Image of mercy in deep reverence, I will preserve from every sort of misfortune. The time will come when all those who do so will give witness to the miraculous efficacy and to the special protection of mercy flowing from this Image.

## Why the front door?

This request has biblical roots.

As Fr. Chris said, “Recently, as the repercussions of the coronavirus became crystal clear, we prayed at Mass, ‘Let us seal the doorposts of our inner thoughts with the protective Word of God ...’ This is a reference to Exodus 12, where God commanded the Israelites to ‘seal the doorposts’ with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death may pass over those houses that were marked.”

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God, Fr. Chris explained. “By offering Himself as atonement for our sins and those of the whole world, by the outpouring of His Blood and Water, He freed us from eternal death and sealed us for eternal life.

“While this act of faith may not guarantee your family won’t be physically affected by the virus, it will guarantee that, by your trust in Jesus, you will obtain His promises of love and mercy, which will surround you and remain in you forever.”

If you don’t have a Divine Mercy Image, visit [TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage](https://TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage) to download it for free and print it out.

If you are unable to have it blessed by a priest, the Church allows you to invoke a blessing yourself on account of your baptismal priesthood (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1669). While making the Sign of the Cross over the Image, say, “Oh, Lord, I seek your blessing upon this image, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.” MH

**To watch Fr. Chris’ video, please go to [TheDivineMercy.org/articles/seal-doorposts](https://TheDivineMercy.org/articles/seal-doorposts)**



Theresa Tirpak, with her late husband, Michael, at the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000.

# ‘CORONA OF MERCY’

A precious package arrives from the past

By Marc Massery

**D**uring a week in which the entire world had been on edge as a result of a global pandemic, just a few days after the Marian Fathers had to cancel their annual Divine Mercy Sunday special events, and only a few hours after President Trump declared a national emergency in response to the coronavirus, a little miracle happened in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

As a staff writer for the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, I’d been in touch with a wonderful octogenarian from Glenview, Illinois, named Theresa Tirpak. Few Divine Mercy devotees spread the Gospel as eagerly and consistently as Theresa. Everywhere she’s gone for the

past few decades, she’s carried Divine Mercy prayer cards around with her, silently imploring God for opportunities to evangelize.

“I never leave home without them,” she said.

Few Divine Mercy devotees receive as many signal graces from the Lord as Theresa, too. She’s always got a story to tell about how the Lord intervened in her life — how coincidences, big and small, reminded her that God is close.

“It’s never something that I choose,” she said. “It [just] happens to me.”

For example, in the year 2000, two weeks before Theresa went overseas to attend the canonization of St. Faustina,

she went to see a doctor because she had developed a tumor on her arm. Her doctor said it would have to be removed right away when she returned from Rome.

She wasn't going to St. Faustina's canonization in order to ask for a healing. "We were going in order to give honor to the mercy of God," she said. Nevertheless, she came back from the canonization without any signs of the tumor.

Of course, she didn't miss this opportunity to give her doctor a Divine Mercy prayer card and tell him all about St. Faustina.

Her most recent God-incidence was a little less dramatic, but just as hopeful. Theresa's family members have been Marian Helpers since the Marians first began spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion back in the 1940s. This is evidenced by the fact that just this past spring, Theresa discovered amongst her belongings a 1944 Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayer card printed by the Marians in Stockbridge. The archivist of the Marians said he doesn't have on record a Divine Mercy prayer card that dates back nearly that far.

Theresa generously offered to send us the prayer card to safeguard this historic document. (That's a photo of it, to the right.) I was also hoping to write a story about it. After all, it's such an old artifact that it contains the original English translation from the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.

When I returned home from Stockbridge on March 13, just hours after hearing the announcement of a national state of emergency, I found the small package Theresa promised she would send me in my mailbox at my home in Pittsfield.

As I carefully handled this delicate artifact, it became clear — yet another God-incidence involving Theresa Tirpak. At the top of the prayer card, it says:

(Chaplet)

Corona of Mercy

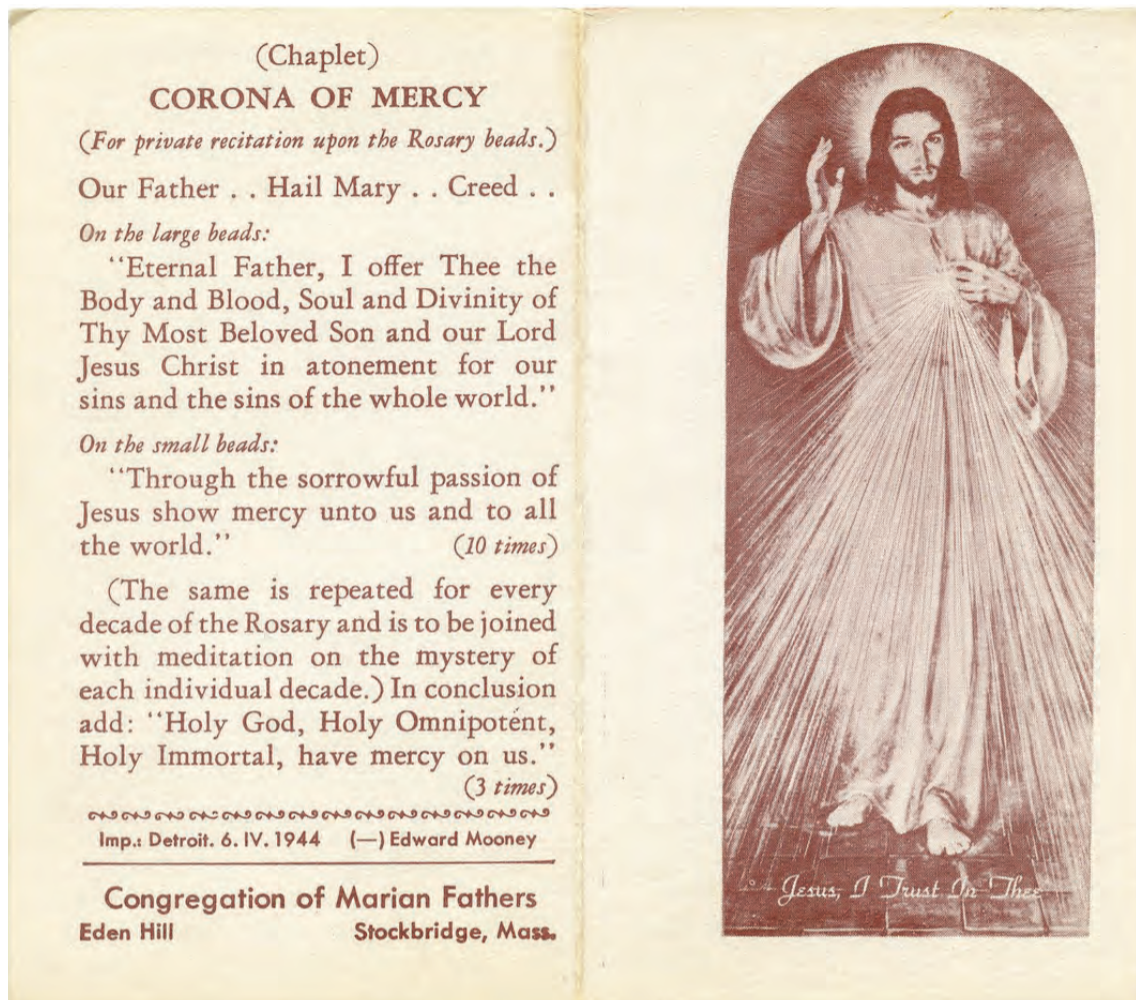
"Corona" of mercy? I have worked for the Marian Fathers for about three years. Never once had I heard *this* word used in relation to Divine Mercy. What are the chances I would discover this prayer card no one has seen in decades just as the normal order of business was unravelling in the United States due to the coronavirus?

Jesus says in St. Faustina's *Diary*, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (300).

Could this be a sign that the Lord is using the coronavirus pandemic to awaken more souls to His mercy?

According to Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, world-renowned expert in the message of Divine Mercy and vice-postulator in North America for the canonization cause of St. Faustina, "korona" means "crown" in Polish. "Koronka" is the diminutive of the same word.

"In Polish, the Rosary is called a 'little crown,'" he said. "[So] 'koronka' means 'chaplet.' The Fathers who were translating those things were not too familiar with Polish



and the nuances, so that's what they chose to call it — ['Corona' instead of 'Koronka']."

Theresa hadn't realized the connection between the prayer card and the global pandemic until I called her to tell her I received her package in the mail.

"There is a message in that, definitely," she said. "I'm so glad that you're pointing that out. We just got word that the whole Archdiocese [of Chicago] is shutting down, no Masses, no anything."

Though Theresa hasn't been able to go to Mass herself since January as a result of a severely fractured hip, she mourns the temporary loss of the Sacraments for all Catholics.

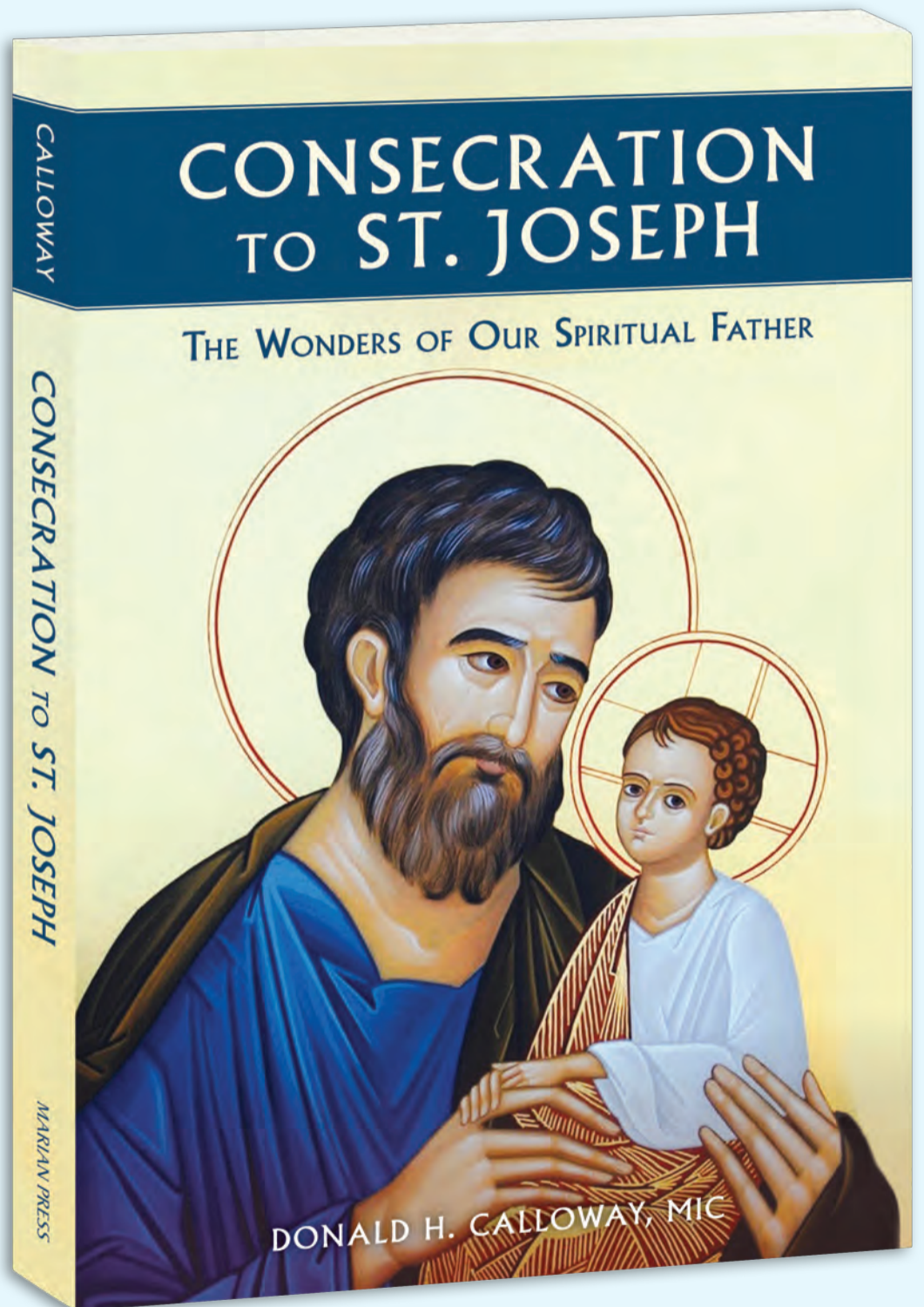
"My whole life centered around getting up each morning and going to Mass. That was the center of my life," she said. "I hope it's going to change. I do listen to Mass [on the radio] but, of course, receiving a Spiritual Communion, not receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, is a difficulty I have yet to conquer."

MH

# Amidst crisis, go to St. Joseph

By Marc Massery

**T**he first day Donald Calloway ever walked into a Catholic church was March 19, 1992, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the time, he had no idea who St. Joseph was. Back then his life revolved around sex, drugs, and rock and roll. But that day, grace had just begun to transform his heart, and he's been following Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church ever since.



“After I had my conversion, I fell in love with the saints and [St. Joseph] in particular,” Fr. Donald said. “I went to Mass every day, and I would kneel before this beautiful statue of him [at Our Lady of Victory Chapel at Norfolk Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia,] and ask him to help me be a good man. When I joined the Marian Fathers, during my novitiate in Stockbridge, Massachusetts,

every day after Mass I went to the St. Joseph altar in the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and knelt down before that statue and asked him to help me live my call.”

Today, the foster father of Jesus continues to inspire Fr. Donald. In fact, Fr. Donald is now leading nothing less than a worldwide movement of Catholics who are consecrating themselves to St. Joseph through his new book,

Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father  
(Marian Press).

So inspiring has *Consecration to St. Joseph* been that seven bishops in the United States have declared a “Year of St. Joseph” for their dioceses: Bishop Peter Jugis of Charlotte, North Carolina; Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin (see sidebar); Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel of Lafayette, Louisiana; Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Bishop Terry LaValley of Ogdensburg, New York; Bishop Joseph Dewane of Venice, Florida; and Bishop William Callahan of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Father Calloway said several other bishops are hoping to do likewise.

But that’s not all. Catholic leaders throughout the country are raving about Fr. Donald’s book. World-renowned theologian Dr. Scott Hahn, who teaches at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, said that the book “is a marvel ... a summary of the whole study of St. Joseph. ... And yet it is readable and accessible to anyone.”

Film star Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in “The Passion of The Christ,” said:

Years ago, I was given a copy of *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort. That book impacted my spiritual life like no other, and I have recommended it to many people. I believe that Fr. Calloway’s *Consecration to St. Joseph* will have a similar impact in the spiritual lives of people around the world. If the Blessed Virgin Mary is our spiritual mother and refuge, St. Joseph is our loving spiritual father and the missing piece needed in a world searching for truth, peace, and hope.

“Right now, we have a lot of crises going,” Fr. Donald said. “There’s gender confusion. People are confused about what it means to be a man, a woman, a family. Of course, this global pandemic hasn’t made anything easier. So now is the perfect time to stress St. Joseph as the head of the Holy Family and to entrust ourselves to him so that he can bring clarity to us and help us endure.”

Father Donald’s book was published on Jan. 1, and it immediately became a Catholic best-seller. It’s already sold more than 80,000 copies. “A lot of people had to get the e-book because they were sold out of the hard copies,” he

said. As the global pandemic began, Marian Press made sure to offer the e-book at a reduced price to make it easier on those in quarantine who wanted to read it. “It’s already been translated into Spanish, French, and Polish, and we’re working on the Italian. There’s talk about an Arabic translation as well,” he said.

Father Donald isn’t surprised that *Consecration to St. Joseph* has become so popular. “I *did* think it would get this big,” he said. “I told everyone it would be. Saint Joseph is



Film star Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in “The Passion of The Christ,” said he believes that Fr. Donald Calloway’s book will have a similar impact to that of *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort.

like the unknown, undiscovered saint. So many love him, and people have been waiting for something like this to come on the scene.”

He felt inspired to write *Consecration to St. Joseph* after the publication of his book *St. Joseph Gems* (Marian Press), a collection of hundreds of quotes about St. Joseph from venerables, blessed, saints, popes, and mystics presented as daily meditations.

“When I put out *St. Joseph Gems*, I was realizing how much material there is on St. Joseph,” he said. “I thought that we could really use something like St. Louis de Montfort’s *Preparation for Total Consecration*, but for St. Joseph, something spiritually deep. I asked people in different countries if a book like this existed, and everybody said, ‘No, it doesn’t exist.’ So basically, I spent three years doing the research and the writing.”

While he was writing *Consecration to St. Joseph*, it was clear to Fr. Donald he was on to something special. “People

# ‘A gift to the Church’

## Green Bay Diocese consecrates to St. Joseph

In response to the popular book written by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, seven bishops in the United States have declared 2020 a year of prayer to St. Joseph in their dioceses.

That includes the Most Rev. David Ricken, bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. “He’s a very powerful intercessor,” Bishop Ricken said. “He’s helped me with a couple of very important needs that I’ve had.”

Years ago, when Bishop Ricken was the bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, an increase in candidates for seminary caused a financial crisis. “[It] was a great blessing, but I didn’t have the money to pay for them in the seminary as a mission diocese,” he said.

A friend of Bishop Ricken’s suggested he go up to St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal, Canada, to pray about what to do. “I really never knew much about [the Oratory]. But I went to Montreal, and I prayed there and

got a miraculous answer,” he said. He came back with a fundraising idea to ease the financial burden. He needed to raise \$150,000 for that academic year but wound up raising \$300,000.

“I knew that St. Joseph was behind it because [of the surplus],” he said. Bishop Ricken never again had an issue with funding for his seminarians. “That’s the way St. Joseph is,” he said. “And I have found out through Fr. Calloway’s book that his name means ‘increase.’ So, St. Joseph is very, very good at that, and he does it so humbly and so quietly. It’s remarkable.”

Bishop Ricken agreed to declare 2020 a year of St. Joseph in his diocese after a parishioner who has been inspired by Fr. Donald over the years approached him with the idea.

“The Church really needs the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph this year,” Bishop Ricken said.

The diocese distributed St. Joseph prayer cards to all parishioners to be prayed each Sunday after Mass.

would say things like, ‘What? This is going to be amazing! Do you know how much the Church is going to eat this up?’ When I kept hearing this sort of response, I knew,” he said.

Father Donald also saw things fall into place at just the right time. *Consecration to St. Joseph* was ready just in time for 2020, which just so happens to be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Blessed Pius IX declaring St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. In fact, language used in the Church decree issued on Dec. 8, 1870, declaring St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, paints a picture of the world reminiscent of today:

And now therefore, when in these most troublesome times the Church is beset by enemies on every side, and is weighed down by calamities so heavy that ungodly men assert that the gates of hell have at length prevailed against her. ... Pope Pius IX, in order to entrust himself and all the faithful to the Patriarch St. Joseph’s most powerful patronage, has ... declared him Patron of the Catholic Church.

“That’s why I keep saying, ‘Now is the time of St. Joseph,’” Fr. Donald said.

Another divine happenstance helped Fr. Donald realize that the hand of God was at work. While Fr. Donald was

thinking and praying about how to structure the book, he had been meditating on the Litany of St. Joseph, a prayer that dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. It consists of 31 invocations, mostly reverent titles given to St. Joseph by the Church.

“I was praying the Litany every day, and I said, ‘Wait a minute. How many of these [invocations] are in the Litany?’ I went through, and it added up perfectly,” he said. Father Donald took this as a sign to structure *Consecration to St. Joseph* as a 33-day preparation to total consecration with each day dedicated to one invocation taken from the Litany of St. Joseph (plus an introduction and a conclusion). “It worked out perfectly. It was like Heaven said, ‘Here, use this,’” he said.

Father Donald hopes that this book will inspire all Catholics to start going to Jesus through Mary and Joseph.

“If the problem today and the major crisis is that families are being attacked and bombarded with all kinds of confusion, we really need a family as a model to help us get things back to normal,” he said. “We’ve got our Lord, we’ve Our Lady, but St. Joseph is the missing link. I think when people realize that they need to model themselves after him, I feel we will see some restoration of order when it comes to family life.”

MH

Furthermore, an anonymous donor bought *Consecration to St. Joseph* books for all 850 men who attended a recent men's conference in the diocese. Together with the Bishop, the men started the consecration on March 30 and completed it on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

"Men often put it all on women to do all the spiritual things, and that's just not right," the bishop said. "The husbands, the fathers, the grandfathers, they have a special role as spiritual fathers of their household to guide, lead, and direct, with their wives, their family, and to incorporate prayer."

In addition to praying for families, Bishop Ricken is also praying during this Year of St. Joseph for the intentions of the Holy Father, as well as for bishops and priests throughout the world. "[I pray that] we may all learn to embrace spiritual fatherhood for our people in a more dynamic and intentional way. And so, who better to learn about that from than the foster father of the Savior, Joseph?" he said.

Bishop Ricken is also praying to St. Joseph for an



"The Church, when she is in her greatest need, historically has so often gone to St. Joseph to be of remedial help, and I think this is one of those times," said the Most Rev. David Ricken, bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

increase in vocations for his diocese. "I don't believe that there's really a vocation shortage; there's a response shortage," he says.

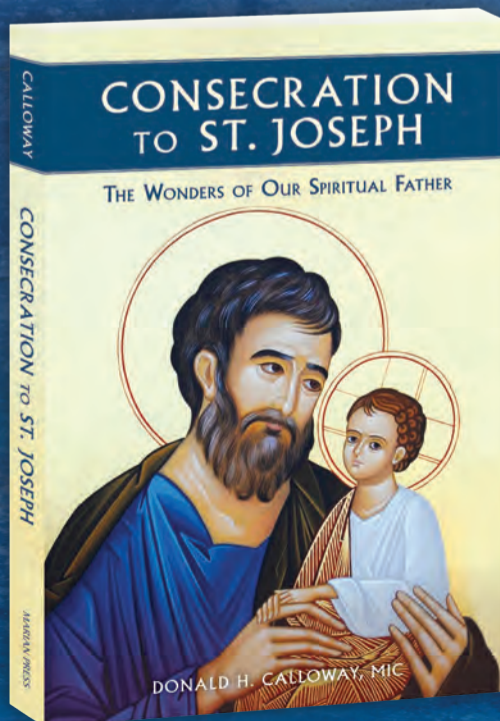
Having completed the consecration himself, Bishop Ricken now realizes why Fr. Donald was so excited to publish it. "All of my instincts about St. Joseph and his miraculous abilities from Heaven are really confirmed through the historical survey of the 'wonders' and through the beautiful consecratory prayers every day. This is really a gift to the Church.

"[I'm excited about] the spiritual power that's going to be released through people doing this consecration. ... The Church, when she is in her greatest need, historically has so often gone to St. Joseph to be of remedial help, and I think this is one of those times ... that many people should seize upon and use to their own benefit and help increase devotion [to St. Joseph], which always leads to Jesus and Mary anyway."

MH

— Marc Massery

Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church on Dec. 8, 1870.



**Consecrate** yourself, your family, your community to **St. Joseph in 2020**, the 150-Year Anniversary of the declaration.

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

# It's all connected

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary gives us trust in mercy and hope for eternity

By Terry Peloquin

**Y**ou've probably heard it before: The Association of Marian Helpers is all about helping people to get to Heaven.

What's something that can help you get to Heaven? What can help you grow in holiness, faith, and love? If you asked the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, they would give you the same answer as many of the Church's great saints: Marian devotion.

Since we are approaching the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15, it's a good time to think about our Blessed Mother's unique role in leading souls to her Son and, hence, to eternal salvation.

## Connected to mercy

Think about these few words that you may pray multiple times every day: Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Every time we pray these last words of the Hail Mary, we consider the "hour of our death." Are we being morbid? Hardly! It's our cherished hope.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that each man receives "at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven — through a purification or immediately, — or immediate and everlasting damnation" (1022).

What ultimately gets us to Heaven is God's mercy. We're all sinners. We depend on mercy. In accord with God's will, Mary acts as our heavenly advocate at this most critical juncture.

But we don't ask our Heavenly Mother for prayers *only* at the hour of our death. We also ask for her maternal intercession *now*. We ask her help to trust in God and consent to His will wholeheartedly as she did. We ask for her prayers so that when our earthly pilgrimage has ended, nothing will prevent us from spending eternity with God.

We can ask confidently for our Blessed Mother's prayers because we know she has prayed for the Church since its beginnings:



After her Son's Ascension, Mary "aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers." In her association with the apostles and several women, "we also see Mary by her prayers imploring the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her in the Annunciation" (*Catechism*, 965).

Then, having been assumed into Heaven body and soul, Mary continues to pray on our behalf:

Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. "In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace."

... Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation (*Catechism*, 968-969).

### Connected to the Immaculate Conception

Our Marian novices traditionally profess their first vows on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Wait a minute. Why would our Marians profess their first vows on *this* feast rather than on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception?

"The two feasts *are* closely related," explains Fr. Chris Alar, MIC ("Fr. Joseph, MIC"), director of the Association of Marian Helpers. "The dogma of the Assumption states that Mary Immaculate was assumed body and soul into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.

Why? Because she had never been touched by original sin or any sin, and therefore, was not prone to corruption like the rest of us."

Certainly, the Assumption celebrates when Mary goes to her eternal reward. But there's more, says Fr. Chris. "It also reminds us that God desires to see *all of us* in Heaven one day — both body and soul, as Mary is. She is a beautiful example for us of our calling to be holy and immaculate."

What an encouraging thought for a Marian professing his first vows! What encouragement for the whole Church! Mary — the supreme model of a true disciple of Christ — and her glorious Assumption show us what God has in store for each of us.

Thank you for all you do as a Marian Helper to help save souls. Please pray for our Marians professing vows. Say a Hail Mary for yourself, too.

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If you feel called to support our seminarians, please visit [marian.org/seminarians](http://marian.org/seminarians) or call 1-800-462-7426.

### Send us your intentions

The Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy will celebrate a Triduum of Masses on Aug. 13, 14, and 15, to proclaim that Mary, the Mother of our Savior, never experienced the corruption of the grave and that she was assumed into Heaven, body, and soul, at the end of her earthly journey.

As a loving tribute to Mary, we place roses at her statue in the National Shrine each year during this Triduum of Masses.

Visit [marian.org/b46](http://marian.org/b46) to send us your personal intentions.





# A SPIRITUALITY FOR THE PRESENT PANDEMIC

In their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Marian Fathers encounter nothing they haven't lived through before

By Chris Sparks

**T**hese last six months have been difficult on a historic scale. A global pandemic like nothing since the Spanish flu of 1918 has tested the healthcare systems of the nations, caused a global economic downturn the likes of which we haven't seen in living memory, and rendered the future more dramatically unpredictable than even the most pessimistic among us ever expected.

We didn't expect this scenario for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Marian

Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But really, perhaps we're uniquely prepared for it.

After all, the Congregation emerged in a time and place full of tumult and strife. Throughout the lifetime of Marian Founder St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), his homeland, Poland, was scourged by wars, plagued by repeated epidemics, and burdened with unimaginable trials. Indeed, those trials helped form the founding calls of the Order.

When St. Stanislaus was in his 20s, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was suffering Swedish invasions that have since been called the “Deluge.” One of the crucial battles was fought at the great monastery of Jasna Gora (the “Luminous Mount”), where the ancient icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa is kept. This battle has been cited by historians as a turning point in the defense of Poland.

In the wake of the battle, the king of Poland, John Casimir Vasa, proclaimed the Blessed Virgin Mary the Queen of Poland on April 1, 1656.

The great victory at Jasna Gora and the entrustment of Poland to Mary’s queenship helped inspire St. Stanislaus in the act that founded the Marian Fathers in 1670: his *oblatio*, or total gift of self, to Mary, especially in defense of her title “the Immaculate Conception.”

But Poland’s battles didn’t merely help guide and reinforce St. Stanislaus’ devotion to Mary. Poland’s trials also inspired his devotion to the Holy Souls. He served for a time as a chaplain to the Polish army and saw that many people were dying without access to the Sacraments. The ongoing violence and often unexpected loss of life led St. Stanislaus to include praying for the dying and for the

Holy Souls in Purgatory among the very reasons for the existence of the Congregation.

This spiritual work of mercy was only made all the more pressing by the repeated epidemics that swept through Poland in St. Stanislaus’ lifetime, especially in the wake of war. Indeed, in his youth, St. Stanislaus fell seriously ill twice from epidemic disease.

And that was just the tip of the iceberg. The political turmoil of the 1600s, especially in the Wars of Religion, the rise of absolutism in other parts of Europe, the tremendous shifts in wealth and power caused by the Age of Discovery, and the fact that the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was parked right in the middle of Europe all meant that St. Stanislaus lived and founded his Congregation amidst one of the greatest eras of upheaval in world history.

But the sufferings and trials of the Congregation didn’t end there. With the partitions of Poland at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century came Russian oppression and a slow decline of the Congregation of Marian Fathers until, in the early 1900s, only one Marian was left, Fr. Vincent Sekowski.

Divine Providence, however, had more work for the Congregation to do.

Under seemingly impossible circumstances, the Congregation was renovated by Blessed George Matulaitis

(1871-1927), who faced a number of incredible challenges, including those of clandestinely living a faithful religious life while also suffering from tuberculosis of the bone and being entrusted with the bishopric of Vilnius in the aftermath of WWI.

The Congregation then faced the trials of the Great Depression; World War II (producing two Marian Martyrs); the Cold War and Soviet totalitarian control of much of Europe, including Poland and Lithuania; and the turmoil within the Church following Vatican II. Blessed Michael Sopocko, St. Faustina’s confessor, entrusted a Marian priest, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, with the Divine Mercy message and devotion in the 1940s. Then, following a temporary ban on spreading Divine Mercy due to faulty translations, the Marians were freed to once again spread Divine Mercy by St. Paul VI in 1978. Two papal conclaves and one very short pontificate later, John Paul I was succeeded by the Polish Pope, St. John Paul II. He would beatify St. Stanislaus, Blessed George, and St. Faustina, the latter of whom he also canonized in 2000 as the first saint of the third millennium. The Polish Pope would also help firmly establish Divine Mercy in the life of the Church, declaring the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Marian Fathers have served Christ and His Church faithfully in the midst of impossible trials. The Congregation has survived historical moments that have been the death of other organizations, preserved by Divine Providence and the loving maternal care of their titular patroness, the Immaculate Conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion, they serve the Church where the need is greatest in parishes and missions. Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, they also lead others to pray for the dying and for the dead, especially those who’ve died without access to the Sacraments.

In these times of limited access to the Sacraments across the world, of pandemic disease, political upheaval, international intrigue, and uncertainty, the Marian charism is more relevant than ever. Those who live it out — both Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers — have an inestimable wealth to share with the world.

Chief among our treasures is trust in Divine Providence and in the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have reasons for our faith. The very existence of the Congregation to this



## 350 YEAR JUBILEE MARIAN FATHERS

*Please see Spirituality, page 23*

# A SAINT FOR THESE TIMES

By Chris Sparks

Looking for a patron saint for those sick and hospitalized with COVID-19? Look no further than the “patron of those in mortal danger,” St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), Founder of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

After all, the canonization miracle of St. Stanislaus involved a young woman who was near death from a respiratory illness with rather similar symptoms to a severe case of COVID-19.

The Marian Fathers’ vicar general, Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC, recounted the miracle in a column in the summer 2016 *Marian Helper* magazine:

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

During Holy Week, her family began a novena of prayer for her through the intercession of Blessed



Barbara Rudzik, the recipient of the miracle, places a relic of St. Stanislaus Papczynski before the altar during the Mass of Canonization on June 5, 2016.

Stanislaus. They prayed before the Blessed Sacrament and offered Masses for her recovery. There was a slight change for the better on the Easter Vigil, and then she kept improving. When they took new x-rays of her lungs three days after the Easter Vigil, her lungs were completely normal with no scarring or inflammation.

A little over a month later, she was released from the hospital, and two months later, she was married.

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

Moreover, since St. Stanislaus’ canonization in 2016, the Marian Fathers have received numerous reports of answered prayers through his intercession.

“Many inexplicable phenomena have come to pass practically in every place where the Marian Fathers minister,” says the Marians’ Superior General, the Very Rev. Andrzej Pakula, MIC.

That includes help from Heaven for the conception of children and cures from terminal illnesses.

In St. Stanislaus, God has provided yet another powerful Pole through whom to promote His merciful love. Indeed, the spirituality of St. Stanislaus flows along the same circuitry as that of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Polish Sts. Faustina, John Paul II, and Maximilian Kolbe.

So let’s ask St. Stanislaus for his intercession for all those suffering from COVID-19, particularly those in danger of death, asking for healing of soul and body. MH



## Spirituality *from page 21*

day, against all odds, against every natural expectation, is proof that God is sovereign over history, and that His purposes will win out over every evil, every suffering.

The Marian Congregation was forged in fire, has been tested by time, and is sustained by God's grace. The

charism of the Founder is also perfectly suited to the seemingly infinite trials and challenges of our present age. In this Jubilee of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation's founding, let us recommit to the spiritual mission of the Marian Fathers, knowing that Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and Mary Immaculate will see us through any storm.

MH

## An Act of Entrustment into the care of St. Stanislaus Papczynski in the time of pandemic

Praised be God in the highest, for in His Providence, He chose you, St. Stanislaus, as His servant and sent you to work in the vineyard of the Church. Obedient to the call, you followed in the footsteps of Christ and His Immaculate Mother.

You proclaimed the Gospel of God and bent down toward all human misery. God made you our Patron and Protector for the difficult time of the third millennium and also for the present moment of this epidemic when the world — affected by disease and fear — has, in some measure, stopped.

Thanks to God's miracles granted through your intercession, you have become a patron of every endangered life. And thus, we come before you now to implore your protection.

Before the majesty of God, we entrust to your intercession everyone in our homeland and around the world that has been affected by the epidemic. You cared for the plague-stricken and the victims of war during the hard times of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in which you lived. You interceded before God on behalf of those who had died without being reconciled to God and who suffered in the flames of Purgatory.



Today, we entrust to your care our families, communities, and parishes, the pastors of the Church and the ruling powers. We entrust to your special care the sick, doctors, nurses, first responders, and everyone serving the good of people and of our homeland.

Saint Stanislaus, through your bond of love, which links you to Mary Immaculate, implore before God's supreme throne, the end of this pandemic, the healing of the sick, and eternal peace for the dead. And ask that repentance of heart, conversion,

and the grace of penance be granted to all of us as well as to those who have turned away from God. Help us as well as other members of the faithful to atone for all sins — especially those against life — to make amends for all our sins, for the profanation of the Blessed Sacrament, and insults against images of the Mother of God, and the persecution of the Church.

Saint Stanislaus, embrace with your care our cities and villages, our entire homeland, so that we can live safely, justly, and piously for the glory of God, the Father Almighty, and in honor of Mary, our Immaculate Mother.

MH

# A MESSAGE OF COMFORT

I have to admit — I’ve been a bit depressed lately. And maybe you’ve been down, too. How could we not be? After all, the news since mid-March has been a steady stream of bad. And I bet you have as many friends as I do who have lost jobs or even loved ones amid this crazy pandemic. Or maybe you’ve lost *your* job or loved one.

If you have, I am so sorry — and please know I am praying for you.

Am I really praying for you?

Yes. At least, I’m trying.

On my good days, I’m finding new meaning in the words, “Have mercy on us *and on the whole world.*”

On my good days, I’m mindful of all the people who are paralyzed or depressed

because of uncertainty and fear.

On my good days, I’m lifting up the whole world in prayer at Mass,

knowing that so many can’t even

go to Mass. On my good days, I’m working hard to bring a message

of comfort to those who are hurting, knowing they *are many.*

And on the bad days?

On the bad days, I’m praying for myself.

I’m praying to the Lord to help me practice what I preach and trust in Him. I’m praying for strength to hold on to Him instead of letting myself slide into anxiety, uncertainty, and fear. I’m asking for the grace to be courageous for the people who look to me for guidance and hope.

And what’s the Lord’s response on those bad days?

What’s His message?

It’s a message of comfort. It’s a message of tenderness. It’s the message of Divine Mercy, which is coming alive for me now more than it has in a long time.

God’s message of mercy is coming alive for me now as I can imagine it came alive for the Polish people back in the time of World War II. During that terrible time, Jesus really must have seemed to be coming alive when tiny Images of Divine Mercy began to spread like little lights of hope amid the darkness of Nazi aggression and oppression.

**On my good days,  
I’m finding new  
meaning in the words,  
“Have mercy on us *and  
on the whole world.*”**

Now, while we’re not facing a war of bombs and bullets, we all are likely facing the spiritual warfare of having to fight against dark emotions of depression, discouragement, and fear. Then again, maybe we’re just bored and struggling with cabin fever — which brings

its own spiritual battles.

Whatever the case, the spiritual battle now is very real. And I believe Jesus wants to comfort us.

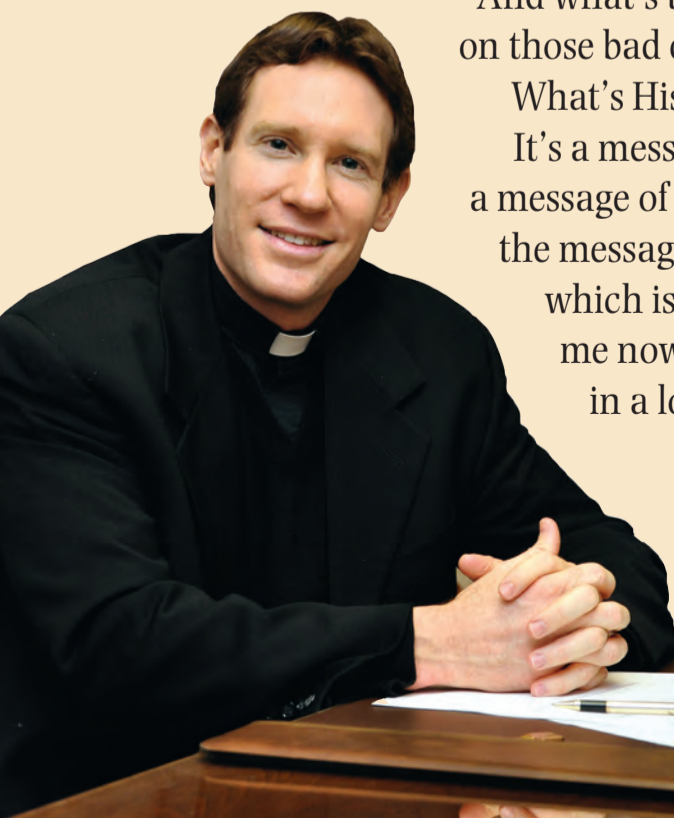
At the very beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis said he sees the Church as “a field hospital after battle.” Well, that seems true even more so now. It’s true in the sense that the message of the Church is the message of the Gospel, the message of “good news,” the message of Divine Mercy that brings great comfort.

So let’s accept that comfort now. Let’s pray together: “Jesus, I trust in You.” Let’s say no to dark emotions, ask Jesus for strength, and cry out to the Father, through the Son, to have mercy on us and on the whole world. Yes, let’s bring the comfort of Divine Mercy to the whole world.

In a time of great depression, let’s bring the comfort of even greater mercy.



Fr. Michael Gaitley's Mercy and Mary online retreat.



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Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, is the Marian Fathers’ director of Evangelization. He is offering an online Mercy & Mary Retreat to bring a message of comfort at a time when you may need it. Go to [MarianMissionaries.org](http://MarianMissionaries.org) to access the retreat.

# More than just a call

After several days sheltering in place at the end of March, Marian Helper Mary Ferg and her family in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, were feeling the stress of isolation.

“Every little word spoken between us was like an attack from Satan, bringing my daughter and me to tears,” she said. “[We were] ‘walking on eggshells.’” Mary had trouble seeing how the Lord was working in her life. “I knew He was with us ... But it was so hard to see or feel Jesus’ presence,” she said.

Then something happened that helped break the tension and remind Mary of God’s mercy. “During the [Hour of Great Mercy], completely out of the blue, I received a phone call,” she said. “It was a seminarian from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, [Br. Harrison]. He was not calling to ask for a donation or to sell anything. He called to ask if he could pray for my intentions. How did this young man know how much his kind act would mean to a struggling family that day? It was God’s grace.”

Following the call, Mary felt the Holy Spirit rush back into her life. “We had a blessed, grace-filled family meeting. Words of kindness, healing, and encouragement were shared. Harmony was restored, and we learned how to be in the ‘pandemic world’ but not of it. Ever since that moment, I am deeply grateful and overwhelmed with God’s love for my family, [because of] that simple and timely act.”

Amidst the pandemic, the Marian seminarians have been dedicating at least one hour per week to calling Marian Helpers to ask how they’re doing and to offer to pray for them. “We’re just trying to find creative ways to



“God loves us and is reminding us, ‘He’s got the whole world in His hands,’” says Mary Ferg, pictured here with her husband, Mark, while sheltering in place in April.



Brother Chris Orante, MIC (left), assists as Fr. Michael Baker, MIC, blesses palms for neighbors to take on Palm Sunday.

reach out,” said Fr. Michael Baker, MIC, a formator for the Marian Fathers in Steubenville, Ohio. Before Palm Sunday, Fr. Michael and a seminarian set up a table outside their residence in Steubenville where they placed palms for neighbors to take. They also put out a jar in which neighbors could place prayer intentions.

“We have had some beautiful responses,” Fr. Michael said. “People are so deeply grateful that we were reaching out to them. I think they were feeling isolated and were missing the Sacraments.”

Recently, Fr. Michael was calling a Marian Helper who happened to work as a chaplain at a state prison in New York. When Fr. Michael asked if there were anything for which he could pray, the chaplain told him, “Oh, yes. Just as you called, I was going over to the jail to inform some prisoners that their family members died from [the coronavirus].”

Over at the Marian House of Studies in Washington, D.C., seminarian Br. Timothy Childers, MIC, has been

teaching his RCIA class online. He’s also been calling Marian Helpers, and he has advice for those struggling with their faith right now.

“I would encourage anyone struggling to dialogue with the Lord like they’ve never dialoged before,” he said.

“God knows our needs and is suffering with us,” Mary Ferg said. “He is asking us to pray, to spend time with Him, to draw on His strength and goodness. He is asking us, on a worldwide scale, to join Him in saving the world through words, deeds, and prayer.”

MH  
— Marc Massery



PHOTO BY WES HICKS  
ON UNSPLASH

# THE SCHOOL OF CHARITY

Catholic social teaching on marriage and the family

*Catholic social teaching is one of the great treasures of the Church, and yet all too often, it's neglected or overlooked entirely. In this issue of Marian Helper, we continue our exploration of the Church's social teaching, this time focusing on marriage and the family.*

By Chris Sparks

In light of social distancing and so many of us staying at home, the topic of marriage and the family has taken on a much more immediate importance in our lives than perhaps ordinary life would have permitted. After all, there's nothing like being in close quarters with your family for an extended period of time to really make you appreciate how wonderful it is when a family has been a true "school of charity," a true incubator for the virtues and for loving each other like the Trinity.

But of course, even in ordinary times marriage and the family are two of the greatest gifts we have because they're also the context for all of salvation history.

Dr. Scott Hahn points out that the Bible begins and ends with a marriage. The whole of salvation history is, to a certain extent, the drama of a divine family and its descendants, of the Father begetting the Son, and the Son loving the Father, and the love between them being the Holy Spirit. Then the Lord God created everything else,

culminating in humanity — Adam and Eve.

And when God created Adam and Eve, it was a family matter.

When God created human beings, he made them in the likeness of God; he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and named them humankind. Adam was one hundred and thirty years old when he begot a son in his likeness, after his image; and he named him Seth (Gen 5:1-3).

Contemplate that for a moment. God created Adam, not merely as a worshipper, but as a son. This is confirmed in the genealogy on Luke's Gospel, where it speaks of Seth, "the son of Adam, the son of God" (Lk 3:38).

From our first parents flows the whole family of humanity, the whole immense lineage of sin and salvation, of life and love that will proceed into the end of the world. The whole context of our existence, then, is God's life-giving love. Each and every member of humanity is meant to be in God's family, His household, His Church.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus means accepting the invitation to belong to *God's family*, to live in conformity with His way of life: "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2233)

Marriage and the family, then, provides the context for all the rest of the Church's social teaching, and in some sense, for all the Catholic faith. The Scriptures speak again and again of God and His chosen people as lovers, and of Christ and His Church as Bridegroom and bride.

## The Catholic vision of marriage and the family

Drawing on Divine Revelation contained in Scripture and Tradition as well as the truths of the natural law that are available to unaided human reason, the Church offers this understanding of marriage and the family:

A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated (*Catechism*, 2202).

The Church tells us that sex belongs in the context of a marriage, between a husband and wife with mutual consent, and only there. From that simple understanding flows all the rest of the Church's sexual morality.

Marriage is both a natural and a supernatural reality.

The family is the *original cell of social life*. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society (*Catechism*, 2207).

This "original cell of social life," of societies across the world, has been "raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring ... . (*Catechism*, 1601).

Because marriage is primordial (it is the source of all society; society depends upon marriage and family for its very existence), then

society must accept that the communities, the families formed by marriage, are endowed with certain inalienable rights.

The political community has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure especially:

- the freedom to establish a family, have children, and bring them up in keeping with the family's own moral and religious convictions;
- the protection of the stability of the marriage bond and the institution of the family;
- the freedom to profess one's faith, to hand it on, and raise one's children in it, with the necessary means and institutions;
- the right to private property, to free enterprise, to obtain work and housing, and the right to emigrate;
- in keeping with the country's institutions, the right to medical care, assistance for the aged, and family benefits;

**Each and every member of humanity is meant to be in God's family, His household, His Church.**

- the protection of security and health, especially with respect to dangers like drugs, pornography, alcohol, etc.;
- the freedom to form associations with other families and so to have representation before civil authority (*Catechism*, 2211. For more detail, see the Holy See's "Charter of the Rights of the Family," October 22, 1983.).

### Love and mercy within the family

Within the family, all members have both rights and responsibilities, as St. Paul made clear in his Letter to the Ephesians:

Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise, "that it may go well

with you and that you may have a long life on earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:1-4).

The fundamental law of God is love: love of God and love of neighbor. And our love of neighbor begins with love of our family, for they are our first neighbors when we are born into this world (see *Catechism*, 2197-2200). In our family, we learn what it is to love. We learn how to be human.

Parents owe love to their children, including honor for their intrinsic dignity, and children owe love and honor to their parents. Let us recommit ourselves to living this love and honor for our family members, and from there, to living love and honor for all the world. MH

**'As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live.'**

— St. John Paul II, Homily, Perth (Australia), Nov. 30, 1986.



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Isabelle Cormier, 10, of Sandy Springs, Georgia, won the age 9-12 category. She painted a Divine Mercy Image featuring St. Faustina and St. John Paul II (inset).



Maggie Borchers, 7, of Cincinnati, Ohio, won the ages 5-8 category, with an acrylic Divine Mercy Image painted on canvas.

## And the winners are ...

In the spring issue of *Marian Helper*, we announced a Divine Mercy art contest for children ages 5 to 12. Contestants were encouraged to draw or paint an 8-by-10-inch Divine Mercy Image.

We received dozens of entries. Winners — chosen by readers who voted via [Facebook](#) and [TheDivineMercy.org](#) — were announced on the Thursday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

The top five winners received a Rosary and Perpetual Enrollment in the Association of Marian Helpers spiritual benefit society. First-place winners won art supplies and several gifts from [ShopMercy.org](#), including *The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Official Coloring Book*.

Isabelle Cormier of Sandy Springs, Georgia, won the age 9-12 category with her acrylic Divine Mercy Image, which features the Secretary of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina, as well as the man who canonized her, St. John Paul II. Isabelle is the youngest of eight children.

“[I’ve been drawing] since I was really little,” she said. Isabelle was encouraged to enter the contest by her cousin Joshua Tomney, 11, of Hanceville, Alabama. Isabelle’s older sister, Cristianne, is a disalced Carmelite who lives a cloistered life in a convent in Argentina, near where the Cormiers lived over a decade ago. Isabelle said that one

day, she might like to be a religious sister, herself.

“Isabelle loves drawing and art. She is always creating her own birthday, greeting, and holiday cards for family and friends,” said Bill Cormier, Isabelle’s father. “She finds that’s a way to give personal, meaningful gifts to others.”

Isabelle is homeschooled and, in addition to drawing, also likes to knit and crochet. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the Cormiers regularly attended daily Mass. They also pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. and the Rosary before bed.

Maggie Borchers, 7, of Cincinnati, Ohio, won the ages 5-8 category, with an acrylic Divine Mercy Image painted on canvas.

Maggie has two brothers, with another on the way in July. She’s homeschooled and is finishing up first grade. In addition to art, she likes theater and playing piano.

“I was pretty excited about [the contest],” Maggie said. “I have enjoyed [art] pretty much my whole life.”

“The contest has encouraged us to learn more about Divine Mercy and St. Faustina,” said Jackie, Maggie’s mother.

Thanks to all who entered the contest!

— Marc Massery



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Contact Ellen Miller at [EMiller@marian.org](mailto:EMiller@marian.org) or (413) 298-1380.



## A FRIENDSHIP MADE FROM HEAVEN

One of Randy Midas' "closest friends" is St. Faustina, the Lord's Secretary of Divine Mercy. How did he get to be so close to her? Well, for starters, he reads her Diary and asks for her prayers every day.

"You always see me with the *Diary*," he says. "I use it so much, it's almost worn out. Next to Sacred Scripture, it's the most important book we have. Every time I read the *Diary*, I know that it is meant for me. Saint Faustina catches my eye. I relate to her. She worked in the convent bakery. I have been a baker for 50 years!

"She loved Jesus so much. She was thinking about Him all the time," Randy continues. "She said that, if people could ever see Him, they would just fall on the floor because His love and compassion for us is overwhelming. It's hard to see people who do what they want and don't even think about Jesus. If they only knew that Jesus is there for them. We just have to look at Him and make that step toward Him."

Saint Faustina's response to suffering strikes a particular chord with Randy. "She faced trials, many trials," he says. "She knew that Jesus was there all the time, especially when it was hard" (see *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1795). Randy says, "She suffered so much, but she said that if you only knew how important trials are, you would want more" (see *Diary*, 1662).

Randy explains, "This life is full of struggle. Saint Faustina reminds me that Jesus has my back. I ask St. Faustina to pray for me and for others in challenging times."

He also feels blessed to live near a convent of Poor Clare religious sisters who daily pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy during the Hour of Great Mercy, just as the Lord instructed through St. Faustina. He joins them whenever he can. When that's not possible, he prays the Chaplet wherever he is, even while driving.

Randy is inspired by the humility of St. Faustina, who wrote, "Without humility, we cannot be pleasing to God" (*Diary*, 270). He's also inspired by the extraordinary role she plays in saving souls. Indeed, St. Faustina promised that, upon her death, she would be a powerful intercessor capable of "boundless action" (see *Diary*, 1582).

This great saint in Heaven must be delighted to have friends like Randy, who help continue the mission our Lord entrusted to her — to tell all souls of His mercy.

Randy strives to live the Divine Mercy message by accepting the Lord's mercy and seeking to do His will. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he has always been very involved in his local community of faith, Sacred Heart Parish, where he serves as sacristan, lector, and Eucharistic minister. He's also a Minnesota Twins fan, but he figures St. Faustina would be OK with that.

I was delighted to recently speak with Randy when he called to let us know he was updating his will and wanted to include a gift to the Marian Fathers. He knows that his gift will help other people learn about his friend St. Faustina and the saving message of Divine Mercy.

If you would like to discuss the work of the Marian Fathers or how to arrange a gift through your will or a beneficiary designation on a retirement account or other asset, please get in touch with me.



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

**T**he priest is not a priest for himself;  
he does not give himself absolution;  
he does not administer the  
Sacraments to himself.  
He is not for himself,  
**he is for you.'**

— St. John Vianney,  
Catechism on  
the Priesthood



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## My kidneys healed

I want to thank the Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski for his intercession with my health. I saw his picture in *Marian Helper* magazine, and I began to pray to him several times a day. My kidneys were no longer functioning, and I was very weak. I spent five days in the hospital, and I was healed.

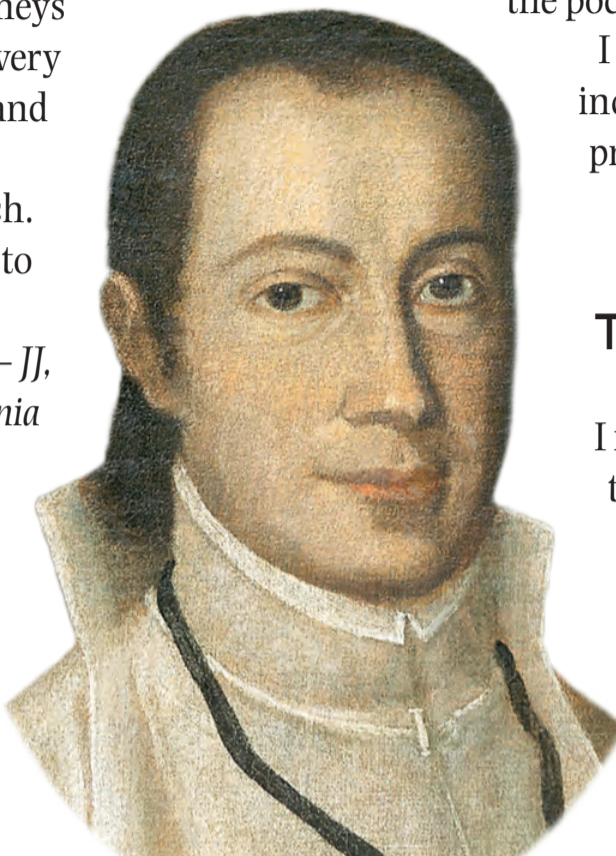
Now I have an issue with my stomach. I have lots of appointments, and I pray to Fr. Casimir that it won't be serious.

— JJ,  
*National City, California*

## Son finds job after 13 months

I have been praying to Venerable Casimir for the better part of a year for my son to find a job. My prayer was that he would get the job that God wanted him to have and when he wanted him to have it. It took 13 months, but he will now be working in his area of expertise at a reputable company.

I am so grateful to Venerable Casimir for his persistent intercession. I will continue to pray to him for my son.



Acknowledgements of graces received through the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski (1700-1755).

— TS,  
*Towson, Maryland*

## Found my lost keys

I'm an elderly lady living in a retirement community. Not a day goes by that I don't pray to Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski.

Recently, I was very frustrated because I could not find my keys anywhere, despite retracing my steps over

and over. Finally, in great distress, I kept asking Fr. Casimir to intercede on my behalf. Suddenly, a thought came to mind: Check a coat deep in my closet, even though I had not worn it recently. I looked, and there it was! In the pocket of this coat!

I have never been more grateful. I now increase my devotion to Fr. Casimir and pray daily for his canonization.

— LKM,  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

## Two graces received

I want to inform you of two graces I received through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski.

The first was for a young man who was suffering from cancer. We prayed to Fr. Casimir for him to be accepted into a new treatment program. Thankfully, he was accepted and is now in remission. He is doing well.

The second grace was for my son who has been out of work for a long time. I prayed to Fr. Casimir, and a couple days later, he found work.

I thank Fr. Casimir for his intercession with all my heart.

— MR  
*St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador*

For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B46-BCWP), 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](mailto:graces@marian.org)

## Prayer for a special grace through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski

O God, Merciful Father, in the heart of Your Servant Casimir, You aroused such a great zeal for accomplishing corporal and spiritual deeds of mercy; deign to grant to me (to us) through his intercession the grace ... for which I (we) implore You. Amen.

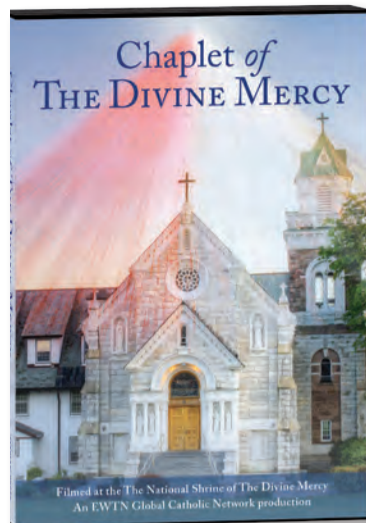
*Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ...*

# New from Marian Press

## CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

The Divine Mercy Chaplet, which millions recite today, was taught to St. Faustina as an invocation of trust in our Lord. Jesus' words to St. Faustina encourage us to pray this powerful Chaplet. This beautiful new video recording of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy was shot by EWTN on location at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Included are five different versions of the Divine Mercy Chaplet featuring the life-size Stations of the Cross on the grounds of the National Shrine and artwork from around the world. Runtime: 75 minutes.

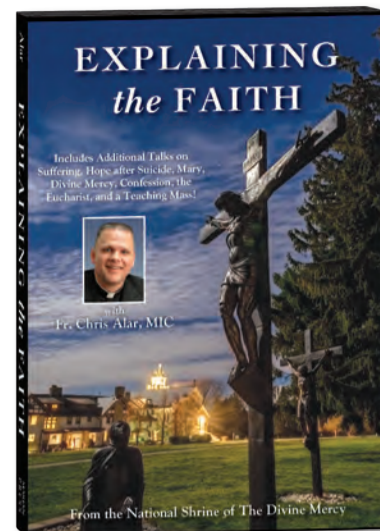
**B46-DCHP \$14.95**



## EXPLAINING THE FAITH

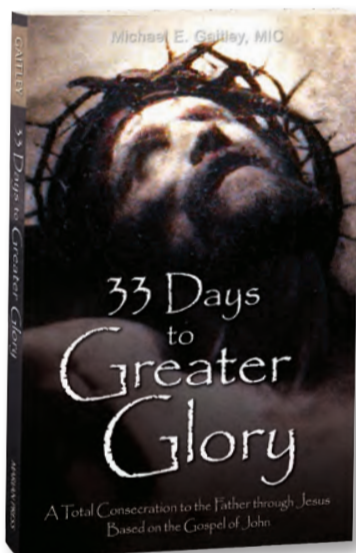
Jesus' promise of Divine Mercy Sunday. Catholic devotion to Mary. Church teaching about suffering and suicide. Are you able to defend our faith when questioned about these topics and others? In this new DVD series, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, offers his favorite 13 talks to address all of these topics and explains the Mass in a way you have never heard before. Three DVDs.

Runtime: 10 hours. **B46-EXDVD \$14.95**



## 33 Days To Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus Based on the Gospel of John

Father Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, author of *33 Days to Morning Glory*, one of the most popular Catholic books of the last decade, brings us his first new book in three years. *33 Days to Greater Glory* completes a trilogy of consecrations: first to Mary, then to Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and now to God, our Father. This final consecration to our Heavenly Father truly is the "greater" consecration, the one in which all others find their origin and end. **B46-33DGG \$15.95**



## LOVE AND MERCY: FAUSTINA

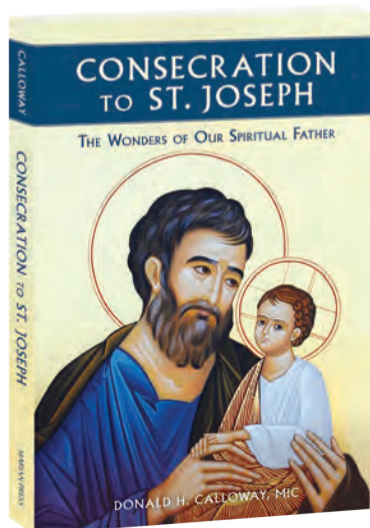
The incredible true story of St. Faustina and the message of Divine Mercy is now documented in the critically acclaimed film "Love and Mercy: Faustina," which follows the incredible call of St. Faustina, designated by our Lord Himself as the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of His Mercy. The Lord told her: "You will prepare the world for My final coming" (*Diary*, 429).

Runtime: 107 minute. **B46-LAMDVD \$16.95**



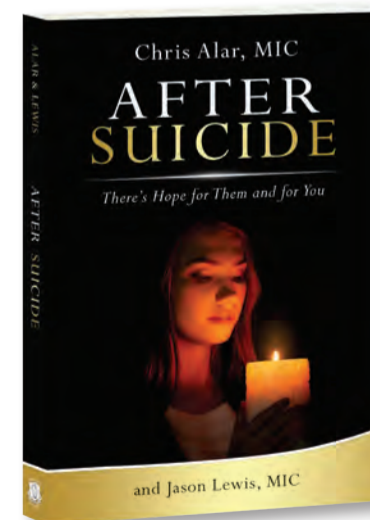
## Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father

In the midst of crisis, confusion, and a world at war with the Church, it's time to come home again to our spiritual father, St. Joseph. In this richly researched and lovingly presented program of consecration to St. Joseph, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, brings to life the wonders, the power, and the ceaseless love of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and the Terror of Demons. **B46-FCSJ \$14.95**



## After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You

Addressing the hard issue of suicide simply and pastorally, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Jason Lewis, MIC, draw from the teaching of the Church, the message of Divine Mercy, and their own experience of losing a loved one to offer readers two key forms of hope: hope for the salvation of those who've died by their own hand, and hope for the healing of those left behind. This book is a must-read for all those trying to make sense out of such a difficult subject. Remarkably, the spiritual principles of healing and redemption apply not only to a loss from suicide, but by any means of death. **B46-ASTH \$14.95**



# Shop Mercy Exclusives!

## National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Stained-Glass Window Scarf

The rose window that dominates the front of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy becomes wearable art in the form of this beautiful scarf. Vivid colors complement the classic stained-glass design. A gentle reminder of God's mercy each time you put it on. Made of a cotton/poly blend. Measures 23" x 74".  
**B46-SCRF \$14.95**



## Divine Mercy Blanket

This woven tapestry blanket would make a great gift or a stunning addition to any home décor. Perfect as a throw or wall hanging, this blanket is woven from 850g cotton/polyester fiber. Machine washable. Measures 50" x 60" with 2" fringe on all four sides.  
**B46-WARM \$49.95**



## 'Jesus, I Trust in You' Glass Water Bottle

Get a touch of inspiration with your hydration! This streamlined, glass water bottle will fit perfectly in purse, backpack, briefcase, or tote. Let every sip you take remind you to pray "Jesus, I Trust in You." Glass with a stainless steel cap and attached carry strap. 21 oz. capacity. Dishwasher safe. 9" x 2 1/2".  
**B46-JWB \$11.95**

## Marian Helper Tote

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 3/4" x 14" x 4 1/2".  
**B46-MTBC \$12.99**



## Divine Mercy Triangle Lantern Flashlight

A must-have safety accessory when you leave home. Measures a compact 3" x 9/16" x 9/16" and extends to 3 3/8" to become a mini lantern. Features an LED bulb and a split ring for attaching to key ring, bag, or purse. LR41 batteries are included and installed. Aluminum.  
**B46-TLFL \$4.95**



## Divine Mercy LED Booklight

The perfect accessory for the reader in your life. This book reading light has a flexible neck, sturdy clip, and a bright, glare-free LED light. Compact and convenient enough to take anywhere. Uses Lithium CR1220 batteries (included).  
**B46-DMBLT \$9.95**



## Prayer Card Holder Wallet

Give your prayer card collection a safe, portable home. This prayer card holder is made of attractive blue leatherette and comes with a secure snap closure. The front cover has a lovely gold stamp image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy. Measures 4 1/4" x 6 1/8" inches with 20 plastic pages to store up to 40 prayer cards.  
**B46-LTHO \$9.95**



## Order Info

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

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

**mail:** Order Department

Association of Marian Helpers  
Stockbridge, MA 01263

## Checks payable to: Association of Marian Helpers

Order total:	U.S. postage/handling	Canada postage/handling
\$0.01-\$20...	\$5.25	... \$6.75
\$20.01-\$35...	\$7.25	... \$9.50
\$35.01-\$75...	\$8.50	... \$11.25
\$75.01-\$125...	\$9.50	... \$13.50
over \$125...	10% of subtotal	15% of subtotal

Postage costs may vary for online orders.

# From the VAULTS



## *Back to beauty*

One piece of news that got lost in a chaotic few months is that, in January and February, the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy underwent the most extensive renovations since its construction 60 years ago.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Shrine Rector Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC. “What’s really exciting is the uncovering of the beauty that has been there all along, but it’s been hidden.”

The work included new flooring, new lighting, and a new sound system. In addition, much of the Shrine’s extensive decorative stenciling and faux finish had to be touched up or entirely reproduced. A sullied statue of the Virgin Mary set high in a central wall recess was treated to an immaculate cleansing, as were the somber-faced statues of the 12 apostles, the Shrine’s mosaics, paintings, and Stations of the Cross, and stained-glass windows.

Water damage from a roof leak years ago had caused the heavens themselves to flake off on the Shrine’s central figurative image — that of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit set against a backdrop of celestial blues and misty whites.

Indeed, reaching the heavens, about 35 feet above the altar, and matching their original color, proved the most

difficult task of all.

“I was realizing that this was my opportunity to get as close of an understanding as I could of what Michelangelo experienced when painting the Sistine Chapel,” said Richard Byrne, who did the work with his wife, Donna, and their assistant, Tina Cantelmi.

During the renovation work, we dug into our archives to find this photo above (left), showing woodworker Stanley Socha, an apprentice for the Shrine builder, Antonio Guerrieri. The photo to the right shows Byrne himself working on the same section of the Shrine 60 years later.

Before they set about their restoration work in mid-January, Richard and crew were briefed on the Shrine’s historical and religious significance.

“When you look to its history,” said Richard, “you learn of these craftsmen who toiled on this. For them, it was a spiritual work. They considered themselves instruments of God’s glory. They were really quite humble. Everyone who was responsible for building this place did so for the glory of God. It’s really an amazing thing.”

We cannot wait until social distancing restrictions are lifted and you can come in person to see it for yourself.



Seminarian  
Campaign  
"For You"

# Live the call!



**Marian Helper Mrs. Caterina Lucke:**

As the priest shortage began to sting, my heart kept longing for my childhood pastor, Fr. Edward Keane. I felt lost. I asked God for help. Days later after praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet on EWTN, it occurred to me to look up the Marian Fathers on the internet. To my surprise, they were looking for seminarian supporters. I felt compelled to start here. Soon, it became a call to give monthly. The call is an ongoing celebration with God. The peace in my heart assured me this is the way to bring forward good shepherds the world needs so desperately.



**Father Mariusz Jarzabek, MIC:**

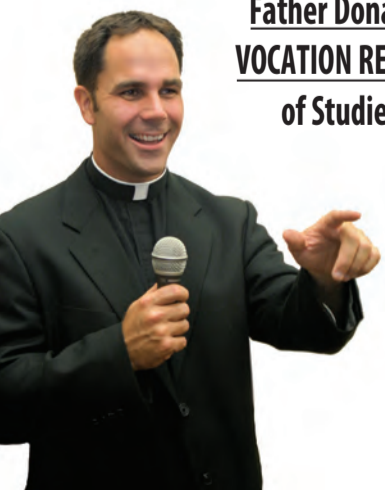
I am thankful to the Blessed Virgin Mary for helping me to choose my vocation. While traveling on the bus to my high school, I prayed the Rosary many times asking the Mother of God to help me discern my vocation whether to be married or to become a priest, and to make one unchangeable choice for my whole life. After finishing school, she invited me to her Congregation — the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. On June 3, I'll be celebrating my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

**Attend a retreat**

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

The next retreats will be:

- Sept. 4-6
- Nov. 27-29
- Dec. 11-13



**Learn more**

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

**Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC  
Vocation Director  
Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception  
350 Belleview Blvd.  
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# SEAL THE DOORPOSTS!

Join in this incredibly powerful act of faith! Protect yourself and your family by posting an Image of the Divine Mercy on your front doors. #SealTheDoorposts



Hear Fr. Chris Alar, MIC explain this important act of faith.

Order your Image at [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org) and search for code B46-PHV8.