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YEAR OF MERCY TO BEGIN • OUR FOUNDER'S CAUSE

Marian Helper

Winter 2015-16 • \$2.25

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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FAMILY MATTERS
WE'RE ALL CUT OUT FOR IT



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Fr. Joseph,
MIC, explains
enrollments.



GOLD FOILED AND EMBOSSED

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AND EMBOSSED

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Page

10

Family Matters

In light of the World Meeting of Families, we present the stories of Marian Helpers — a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a wife, and a husband — who give witness to the “factory of hope” that is family.

8 This is our year!

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which begins on Dec. 8, seems tailor-made to the Marians and Marian Helpers. So let's double up our efforts to spread the message of Divine Mercy and devotion to Mary Immaculate. What a year we have ahead of us!

19 Pope Francis electrifies the nation

All eyes were on Pope Francis during his inspirational first trip to the United States — and we were there! Plus: the Marians react to the historic visit.

22 Deeds, Words, Prayers

Father Joseph, MIC, wants you to share the story of someone you know who lives Divine Mercy. Also, see page 23 to find out more about our Works of Mercy Contest.

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Father Joseph Writes 4 Marian Helpers in Action 6 Father Joseph's Picks
7 Notes from Rome 24 New Evangelization 26 Graces Received
27 From the National Shrine 29 Outstanding Helpers 32 From Our Archives

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Vol. 70, No. 4
Winter 2015-16

Cover image by Andrew Leeco and Felix Carroll.

MISSION STATEMENT

MARIAN HELPER is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation. *MARIAN HELPER* is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association. Printed in the USA with ecclesiastical approval. Copyright © 2015 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: editorial@marian.org website: marian.org

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Learn about our lay ministries.

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marian.org/prayerline

Websites

marian.org

TheDivineMercy.org

ShopMercy.org



Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Marian Helpers are men, women, dads, moms, grandparents, families, and even children who seek to do great good in the Church and the world. Established in 1945, the Association began as a small group of friends who believed in and supported the work of the Marians. Now some 1.5-million members strong, the Association is a spiritual benefit society that continues to prayerfully and financially support the priests and brothers of the congregation of Marian Fathers. In turn, as a Marian Helper, you share in the merits and spiritual benefits of all the daily Masses, prayers, and good works of Marian priests and brothers all over the world *just as if you were a member of our religious congregation!* Moreover, through our websites, books, newsletters, pamphlets, prayercards, and this very magazine, we give you the tools to grow in holiness. Together, we are a family in Christ! Together, let's bring his mercy to a hurting world! Enroll yourself or others today.

Visit marian.org/enrollments or call 1-800-462-7426.



You Tube



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OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US

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

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

Arrange a special gift:

- using stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: marian.org/plannedgiving

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

When making your will ...

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is:

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

‘... BUT A DISHRAG’

We asked, and we received! In the Fall issue of *Marian Helper*, we launched a petition drive to help declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church. Thanks be to God, we’ve received more than 10,000 signatures — and counting — through both our printed petitions and online petition.

We will send all the petitions to the Holy See sometime in 2016. If you haven’t done so already, please sign the petition by visiting thedivinemeracy.org/doctor. It’s our prayer that, by declaring St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church, the Holy Father would further amplify the message of Christ’s merciful love to a world wandering in the darkness of sin and suffering.

Most of us are familiar with the seminal words of John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” We Marians have an “ask not” equivalent in the words of our Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis (1871-1927), who said, “If I may ask, Lord, let me be but a dishrag in your Church ... so that your house may be a little cleaner and brighter. And afterwards, let me be thrown away like a dirty, worn-out dishrag.”

Look around the world today. We need to get to work. We need to ask what we can do for our families, neighbors, country, world, and Church. In light of the upcoming extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which begins on Dec. 8, what can we do to bring Christ into all things and all places? What can we do to, in Blessed George’s words, “enkindle our hearts with the fire of this zeal”?

With this issue of *Marian Helper*, we are making a call to action, which comes down to this: Turn to Our Lady to guide us on our path to holiness (see



Incoming! We’re getting boxed in, but in a good way. Petitions to help declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church are starting to stack up. Please keep them coming!



On Oct. 7, I led a Eucharistic Procession throughout the Marian Helpers Center and consecrated our work here to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Joseph. We are blessed!

pages 8-9); affirm the family as the very foundation of society (see pages 10-17); follow Pope Francis’ call to be united in extending mercy to the poor, the sick, immigrants, prisoners, and human beings in all stages of life; preach peace; safeguard the environment; stand up for religious freedom; and eschew a Christianity that “does little in practice.” (See our coverage of the Pope’s visit to the United States, pages 19-21.)

And to that last point, in this issue I am calling upon you to follow the Lord’s demand that we engage in works of mercy. We want to hear your stories! So much so that we are holding a Works of Mercy Contest (see pages 22-23).

Indeed, mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life, as Pope Francis said in his announcement for the Jubilee Year: “The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.”

Let’s be that dishrag. Let’s see what we can do to brighten the world with the light of our faith. Saint Faustina, pray for us!

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.



STEVE TOSTERUD

See a feature
on Marcus
and Marian
Caskets.

Meet Marcus Daly

Inspired by the funeral of *St. John Paul II* in 2005, woodworker Marcus Daly went from building wooden boats to building wooden caskets dedicated to *Our Lady* and the *Divine Mercy*. Marcus and his wife, Kelly, live on Vashon Island, Washington, with their seven children.

Marcus, what was it about John Paul II's funeral that inspired you to start your company, Marian Caskets?

All that wealth and splendor of St. Peter's Square surrounding his simple wooden casket was such a powerful statement. The simplicity of his wooden casket was startlingly honest and moving. It elicited the wood of the Cross and starkly set off the truth that "naked you come into this world and naked you go out of it." It was death on display, plain and simple, and it had to be grappled with. So a little while later, we thought that maybe instead of making wooden boats, we could make simple wooden caskets — another form of "vessel," but for a different journey, a bigger journey.

Describe your caskets.

The top of the coffin is inlaid with a Marian Cross as a reminder that Mary was at the foot of the Cross of her Son and that she's present with us in our sorrows, too. "Jesus, I trust in You" is carved into the end of the coffin, and part of the final prayer of the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* is carved into the long side: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us." I couldn't think of anything more appropriate than words of Divine Mercy. *Saint Faustina* received some pretty explicit promises from Christ regarding death and the praying of the chaplet, and so carving into the casket words of the chaplet and "Jesus, I trust in You" seems so fitting to me, like a shield against the enemy.

What's the process for making a casket? And do you go to bed with the sound of a belt sander ringing in your ears?

The caskets only require about 30 minutes of belt sanding each, but it is an especially whiny tool! I'm

very grateful for ear protection. The process is pretty much: Cut, join, rip, glue, cut, sand, carve, sand, paint, sand, glue, peg, sand, finish, sand, finish. So it's mostly sanding. Like life, most of the work is subtle and repetitious — like praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary. In all, it takes 20 hours to make a single casket.

Why, specifically, “Jesus, I trust in You”?

It cuts to the chase. For a guy like me, just the simplicity of that prayer: It's a short tether to God. I love that prayer.

Is it safe to say that casket making is as much a ministry for you as it is anything else?

Yes. The business has provided me with many opportunities to witness to people who are away from God and maybe worshipping material goods rather than our Father in heaven. I can intersect with them at this very profound moment: death. Unlike St. John Paul II, many of us don't always live so obviously for God. But upon our deaths, here's a chance to say who we are, and *who* we are is directly related to *whose* we are. And, hopefully, for the person who dies and also for family and friends who might not go to church at all, God can use this time as an opportunity to pour out his love for them when their hearts are cracked.

I hope that people will see in my caskets an opportunity to share their faith and their trust in God's mercy in a very personal way. I've tried to find a way to put everything I believe into these caskets. I believe beauty can save the world. I believe the truth will set us free, even when we fear it will crush us. And I believe that goodness is ultimately our best defense against the onslaught of absurdity so tirelessly trying to scramble our spiritual GPS as we make our way through this earthly pilgrimage, home to our Heavenly Father.

On a different level, most caskets are expensive. Mine are not. I hope to ease the financial obstacles preventing people from choosing traditional Christian burial.

You say funerals are “important checkpoints.” Explain.

We are confronted with the ultimate questions: “Do we know where we're going? Do we know the way? Are we on the right path?”

Anything else you wish to say?

Be not afraid! I've had hundreds of encounters now with people who were dying or who had recently lost someone they loved. God will be there. Acknowledge your failings, trust in his mercy, and, in gratitude, try to show mercy to everyone around you.

For more information, call 1-877-280-6268 or visit MarianCaskets.com.

MH

— Felix Carroll

IN BRIEF

Dan Bailey, a 90-year-old parishioner in the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, wrote to us expressing gratitude for the work of David Came, the former editor of *Marian Helper* who retired in June. Dan said that when he learned of Dave's impending retirement last spring, he was inspired to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for 40-plus days in a row. He said he believes the fruits of his prayer were that his parish, following a merger, changed its name to St. Faustina Parish, effective July 1. Dave, we know you're reading this (hopefully on a sunny beach in Florida). Your legacy endures.

Together, let's turn our prayers to a Marian Helper named **Robin S.**, who wrote to us in May. She said, “This is something I have been in agony over for many years now. I had two abortions when I was younger, and I'm having a hard time forgiving myself. Jesus says he forgives us for our sins when we repent, then why can't I forgive me? So if anyone would like to pray for me, I would be thankful.” We will, Robin. In addition, we extend the following advice from our friend Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, to those struggling to forgive themselves: “Don't focus on your own feelings. Just think about Jesus' feelings about you.” He points to St. Faustina's Diary entries 1487 and 1489 in which Jesus shares his feelings about each of us. “What joy fills My Heart when you return to Me. Because you are weak, I take you in My arms and carry you to the home of My Father. ... In a soul that lives on my love alone, I reign as in heaven. I watch over it day and night. In it I find my happiness.”

Have you got news you wish to share with your fellow Marian Helpers? Email us at mailbox@marian.org.

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b28 or call 1-800-462-7426.

Christmas is coming — and this year, it'll be in the first month of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Give the gift of mercy this Christmas. Help your family, friends, and loved ones to live the Jubilee Year with these classic titles from Marian Press.

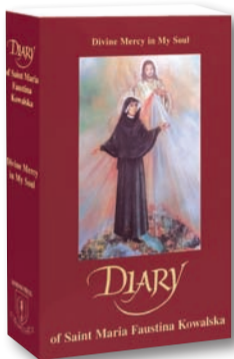
THE DIVINE MERCY: MESSAGE AND DEVOTION

BY FR. SERAPHIM MICHALENKO, MIC

One of our most popular publications, this booklet helped bring the message and devotion of Divine Mercy to the world. Accessible and short, this is the resource to give out to those who aren't ready for St. Faustina's full *Diary* just yet. MARIAN PRESS, 88 PP., \$3.99. **B28-M17** (Rather watch a movie? Check out *Divine Mercy 101*. \$9.95. **B28-DM102**)



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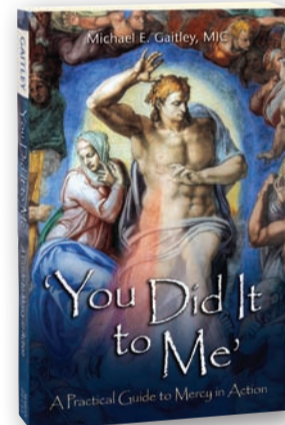
DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL: DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Through St. Faustina, the Divine Mercy movement kicked off across the world, changing the lives and hearts of millions. So get the message straight from the mystic's pen — pick up the *Diary* this Advent to read in the Jubilee, and get copies for your friends as well. MARIAN PRESS, 700 PP., \$15.95. **B28-NBFD**

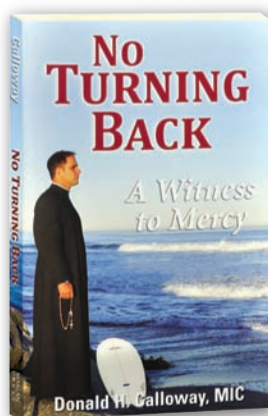
'YOU DID IT TO ME'

BY FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY, MIC

It's not enough to passively trust in Jesus and receive mercy; we must perform works of mercy, as well. Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, gives you a practical guide to the works of mercy, complete with examples and checklists to help you plan your own works of mercy. MARIAN PRESS, 216 PP., \$14.95. **B28-2ME**



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NO TURNING BACK

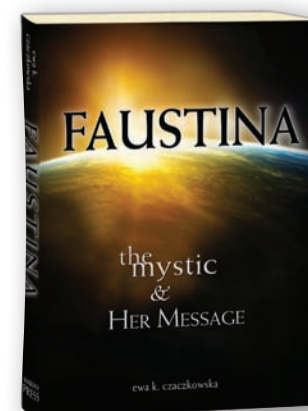
BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

Few things change hearts and minds like conversion stories, and as many of you know, the conversion story of Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, is a doozy. Show other people that radical conversion is possible. God's grace can overcome addiction, criminal behavior, and radical rebellion to make a whole, healthy life out of a broken one. MARIAN PRESS, 262 PP., \$19.95. **B28-NTBBK**. (His conversion story is also available on DVD: *Extreme Mercy II*. \$21.95. **B28-EXM2**)

FAUSTINA: THE MYSTIC AND HER MESSAGE

BY EWA K. CZACZKOWSKA

The saints are powerful intercessors for us and tremendous role models. This detailed biography of St. Faustina tells the story of the Secretary and Apostle of Divine Mercy, allowing us to see both her sufferings and sanctity, laying out a path for us to follow as we receive and dispense mercy in the Jubilee Year. MARIAN PRESS, 418 PP., \$19.95. **B28-BIOSF**



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STEPS TOWARD SAINTHOOD?

In 2007, a little more than 300 years after his death, Fr. Stanislaus Papczynski, the Marians' Founder, was declared by the Church to be "blessed," just one step away from "saint."

Why did it take so long? The main reason involves the history of Poland, which has endured countless wars, plagues, and persecution. (It actually disappeared off the map for a time.) The Polish people suffered at the hands of tsars, Nazis, and Communists. All this made the work of gathering documents on the sanctity of the life of Fr. Stanislaus difficult, if not impossible, for a time.

How did the beatification come to be? Our congregation spent years making the case to the Holy See. His writings were analyzed to show that he hadn't written anything contrary to the teachings of the Church. We had to prove he had lived a virtuous life to a heroic degree. Finally, it needed to be determined a miracle had taken place through his intercession. An amazing miracle was approved: A pregnant woman in Poland found that the heartbeat of her child had stopped. A family member familiar with Fr. Stanislaus urged the family to pray a novena to ask his intercession. Although it seemed to be too late, the family prayed, the heart started beating again, and the child's development resumed. After much investigation, the Vatican declared it a "reanimation" and accepted it as a miracle, which led to Fr. Stanislaus's beatification. The little boy was born without any problems, and he is growing up in a normal way.

Now, eight years after the beatification, we are praying that another healing that we believe took place through his intercession will lead to his canonization. (In the annals of the congregation he founded, Blessed Stanislaus would be our first saint. In addition to Blessed Stanislaus, we have three blessed.)

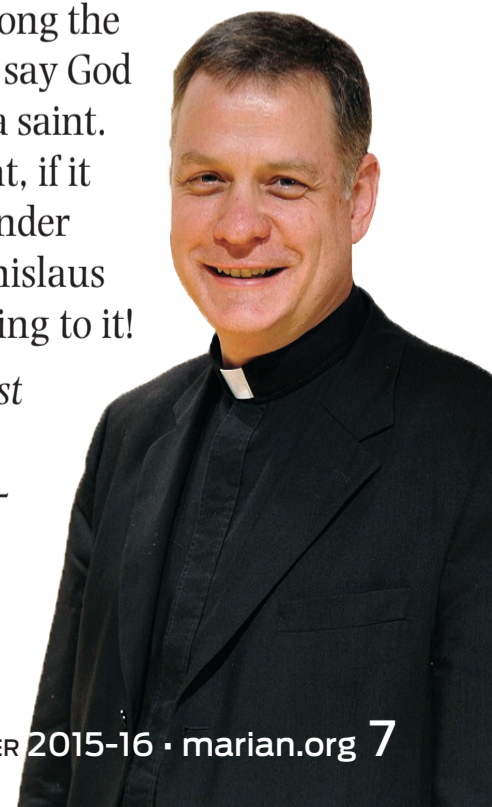
To be declared a saint is a long process. In Blessed Stanislaus' case, an investigation took place on the dioc-

esan level in which medical documents were gathered, and witnesses and doctors were interviewed by other doctors and specialists. All of the documents were then brought to Rome and submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The documentation was put together in book form in what's called a "Positio." How the process works is that a group of medical doctors meets at the Vatican to discuss and pass their judgment on the healing. We may be able to make an announcement about their findings by the end of the year or by spring. If they accept the presumed miracle, the matter goes before a team of theologians. If they vote positively, everything gets passed on to a group of cardinals who meet in a consistory. If they accept everything, the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints would present everything to the Holy Father, and if he signs the documents, a date would then be set for the canonization.

It's been exciting for me to have been living in Rome for the last 10 years because I have an inside view on how all this takes place. I was able to participate in the preparations for Blessed Stanislaus' beatification. I have witnessed the slow and painstaking work that is needed to get to the next step. Rightfully so, the Church takes great care to verify each step along the way before she can confidently say God wants someone to be declared a saint.

I ask each of you to pray that, if it is God's will, the Marians' Founder be declared a saint. "Saint Stanislaus Papczynski." That has a nice ring to it!

Check out page 26 for the latest reports from Marian Helpers on graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus.



Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the Vicar General of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

THIS IS OUR YEAR!

LET THE
DOORS OF MERCY
OPEN WIDE

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

HOLY DOORS

The doors you see are the entrance to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. For the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of making a pilgrimage to grow in holiness, ask for God's forgiveness, and offer thanksgiving. The Marians are pleased to announce that the Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, has named our Shrine an official pilgrimage location for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Shrine's Holy Door officially opens Dec. 8. To learn more about making a pilgrimage to the Shrine, email pilgrims@marian.org, visit TheDivineMercy.org/shrine or call (413) 298-1119.

“**T**his is our year.”
That phrase came up again and again as we discussed the upcoming extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in meetings here at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Now don't get me wrong: Every year is a time to live “for Christ and the Church,” as Marian Renovator Blessed George Matulaitis would say. But this Jubilee is something special, an invitation and a challenge the Holy Father has placed before us to live a truth taught by Jesus through St. Faustina and reiterated by the Great Mercy Pope, St. John Paul II: Now is the time for mercy.

This is our year! It seems tailor-made to the Marians' special calling from the Lord to spread the message of Divine Mercy and devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception.

Indeed, the Jubilee begins on Dec. 8, the Marians' patronal feast day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. What a grace from God! Founded in Poland in 1673, we were the first Catholic men's order to give witness to Mary's Immaculate Conception by bearing her title in our name. This was some two centuries before the Church would proclaim the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Why begin the Jubilee on this date? What is Pope Francis up to? He is highlighting the fact that God desires all of us to become like Mary, humbly and obediently doing the will of the Father. Her Immaculate Conception is a signpost for what we can be. In Heaven, we will be pure of heart. But God wants us to begin the process now, on earth.

The biggest problem today is that there aren't enough living saints making Jesus present in the world. Our Holy Father wants us to become part of the solution to that. This Jubilee is to be “a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion,” he said. The Pope is calling upon the Church “to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and making fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and every woman of our time.”

He knows graces abound for those who invoke Our Lady's powerful intercession.

“At the foot of the cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus,” he said. “This supreme expression of

mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception.”

It's also telling that the Jubilee concludes on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Nov. 20, 2016. Indeed, the whole Jubilee leads us to Jesus through Mary Immaculate!

This is our year!

In calling for the Jubilee, the Holy Father is also emphasizing yet another mission of the Marians and

Marian Helpers: the spread of the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina, who he specifically mentions by name in Misericordiae Vultus (*The Face of Mercy*), the papal bull declaring the Jubilee.

In 1941, barely three years after the death of Sr. Faustina, the Divine Mercy devotion was brought to the United States from Poland by a Marian priest, Fr. Joseph

Jarzebowski. Since that time, thanks to the work of the Marians and our Marian Helpers, we have witnessed wonderful fruits in the lives of those who have embraced the Lord's call through St. Faustina to turn from sin, receive Christ's mercy, and share his mercy with others. The Holy Father knows the power of this message: that it brings about renewed peace and hope, miracles of grace, and extraordinary conversions.

In his papal bull, the Holy Father said of St. Faustina, “May she, who was called to enter the depths of divine mercy, intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love.”

This is our year!

Let us turn in prayer to Mary Immaculate, asking her to strengthen us in holiness and guide us to her Son, Christ the King.

Let's forgive those who have hurt us.

Let's go to Confession regularly.

Let's meditate on the Sacred Scriptures.

Let's pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, imploring mercy “on us, and on the whole world.”

Let's perform one or more works of mercy every day (see page 22).

Dear Marian Helpers, let's go and announce the Gospel of Mercy. The world needs a Church in splendor.

This is our year!


MH

JUBILEE HOMEPAGE
Visit our special home page for the Jubilee Year: TheDivineMercy.org/jubilee. There you'll find news updated regularly and videos to help guide you in your spiritual journey during this extraordinary year.




WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2015

By Breanne Reilly

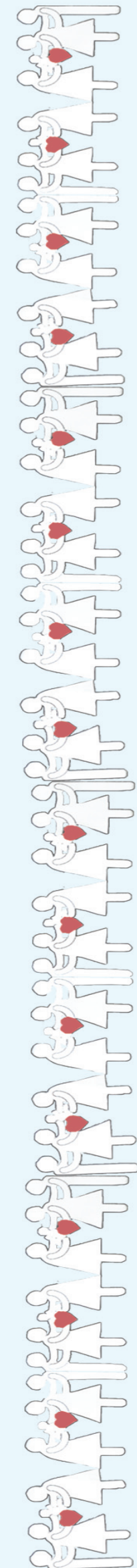


Pope Francis' address at the Festival of Families at the World Meeting of Families.



Some of the major keynote speeches at the World Meeting of Families.

FAMILY MATTERS



When Pope Francis arrived at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on Sept. 26, he had a speech prepared for the 18,000 people gathered there. But as he listened to families share their emotional stories, in true Pope Francis fashion he put the script aside and spoke from his heart.

His candid speech, spoken in his native Spanish, addressed the reality of family life — in all its complexity, brokenness, and beauty.

“In families, there is always, always, the cross,” he said, “because the Son of God opened for us this path. Because of this, the family is — forgive the term I’ll use — it is a ‘factory of hope,’ of hope of life and of resurrection.”

In no uncertain terms, Pope Francis has placed family matters at the very heart of his pontificate. In writings, talks, interviews, and homilies, he reaffirms the family as the foundation of society and the Church, the privileged place for spreading the faith, and a revolutionary choice in a culture that embraces the temporary and disposable. And with the Synod on the Family, which convened this fall, he seeks to chart a definitive path for the Church in ministering to — and listening to — families.

And it’s worth noting that attending the World Meeting of Families in September was his original reason for his whirlwind trip to the United States (see pages 19-21 for our coverage of his trip).



In Philadelphia, he tied practical, homespun pastoral advice to eternal truths.

He beseeched the people gathered — who came from more than 100 countries — to especially take care of grandparents and children and to avoid going to bed angry.

“Never let the day end without making peace,” Francis said. “In a family, you can’t finish the day off not being at peace.”

He met with the U.S. Bishops and denounced the “vicious cycle” of a “Christianity which ‘does’ little in practice, while incessantly ‘explaining’ its teachings.” To break this cycle and encourage people to follow the faith, the Pope instructed the bishops to, first, recognize the family as a confirmation of God’s blessing instead of a cause for complaint. He told the bishops to join families in both celebration and sorrow, to “seek out, to accompany, to lift up, to bind up the wounds of our time.”

He instructed the bishops to extend sincere invitations to young people to opt for marriage. He told the bishops to share the Good News with everyone — to break out of their comfort zones and “go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear.”

As the World Meeting of Families drew to a close, Pope Francis beseeched all gathered, both Christians and non-Christians alike, to return home and focus on one unifying verb and noun — love.

On behalf of Christians, the Lord’s disciples, he asked all families of the world for help in promoting

goodness. He said, “Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil — a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work — will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation, whatever the family, people,

region, or religion to which they belong! ... To raise doubts about the working of the Spirit, to give the impression that it cannot take place in those who are not ‘part of our group,’ who are not ‘like us,’ is a dangerous temptation. Not only does it block conversion to the faith; it is a perversion of faith!”

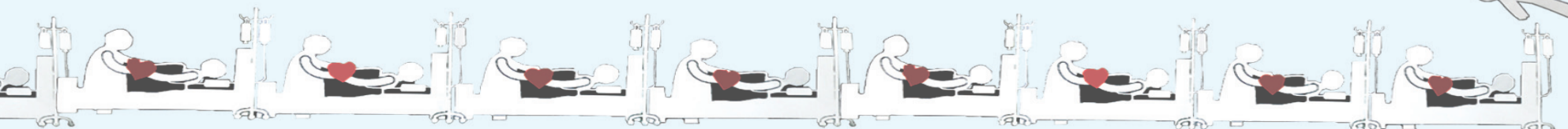
He highlighted the “homely gestures” family members perform out of love for one another. These little gestures outlined the daily ritual of family life, the quiet things that, since they’re routine, often go unnoticed or unappreciated. He said, “Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. Like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work. Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home.”

He said that, like happiness, holiness is always tied to such little gestures. These “little miracles” add up, and they serve as an active presence of Christ’s love in the world today. According to the Holy Father, faith needs love to develop; it grows when it is lived and shaped by love. This is why a loving home is a “domestic church” — because behind its doors and between its family members, faith becomes life, and life becomes faith.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Following the World Meeting of Families, the Holy Father convened a Synod of Bishops from Oct. 4-25 in Rome. It was the second synod Pope Francis convened in the past two years to discuss matters related to family life. Like its 2014 precursor, the synod’s theme was “The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world.” The bishops’ debate was divided into three sections: “listening to the challenges of the family,” “discernment of the family vocation,” and “the mission of the family today.” The Holy Father is expected to issue a post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the role of the family in the life of the Church.

In the following pages, we hear from Marian Helpers — a father, a son, a mother, a daughter, a husband, and a wife — who give witness to the “factory of hope” that is family. As Pope Francis would put it, the cross is present in these stories. So is the hope of life and of resurrection.



My wife and I were happy with our lives. We had good jobs. We traveled, helped with our church, and volunteered in our community. We weren't looking for a "next big adventure." But God had other plans.

One night, three years ago, my wife, Kimmie, had a dream in which God told her of a baby girl who needed us to adopt her. We would later come to learn it was the same day our future daughter, Charlotte ("Lottie"), was born.

When Kimmie shared her dream with me that morning, I was shocked to say the least. I'm in my 50s and have two children in their 30s from my first marriage. Kimmie, who I married in 2010, was unable to have children. Starting a family wasn't on our agenda.

Prompted by her dream that night, we prayed and we researched, and then we took classes to become foster parents with the goal of adopting. These classes exposed us to a cold and painful reality in our society today. So many parents are incapable of taking care of a child due to poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. At the same time, there aren't enough people willing to step up and rescue these children. Our local agency is constantly saving children like Lottie, but they have nowhere for them to go.

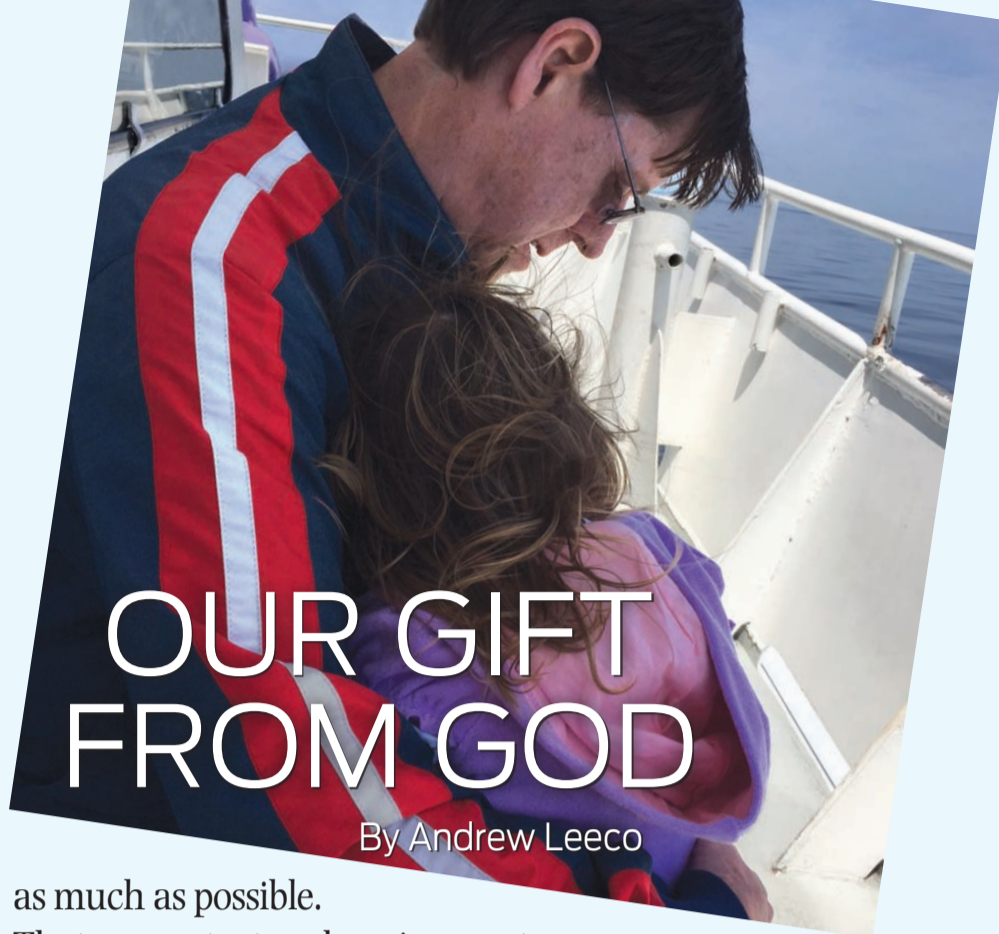
What Kimmie and I have come to believe is that it's no longer enough for us all to simply declare ourselves "pro-life." One way or another, we — all of us — need to be the answer to the question: "Who will love and protect these children once they're born?"

Days after finishing the mounds of paperwork and classes, we got the call to come get our foster child, a 6-month-old girl. She was severely underweight, practically skin and bones. She had gone through two foster families. Neither wanted to keep her because, as her state-appointed attorney said, she was a "holy terror." We were told she wouldn't sleep or eat and that she would cry non-stop. Add to that, her motor skills had not yet developed as they should have. She couldn't even roll over.

When we were handed Lottie, she smiled at us. It was love at first sight.

That evening, we sat her down in the highchair, and so began our life together. We got her to eat. By the second night, she slept for seven hours. She was crawling within a few weeks.

Our excitement over her success was tempered by our heartbreak every time we learned more about her past and all she went through in utero and during her first six months. She had no foundation of love. She would turn anxious and fearful. The specialists advised us to hold her



OUR GIFT FROM GOD

By Andrew Leeco

as much as possible.

That was not a tough assignment.

Still, even with all her anxieties, we have never seen the "holy terror."

Then one day, after about a month of Lottie being in our care, we finally heard it — she laughed. Not just laughed; she *belly* laughed. Our hearts broke and soared at the same time.

At nine months, she was doing great. She had gained weight. She was walking and talking. But nine months was also when the roller coaster began in the court system. Relatives of Lottie, including her biological parents, stepped forward to reclaim her. But just as soon as they stepped forward, they would disappear again. This went on. Meanwhile, the thought of someone else raising Lottie terrified us. We feared for her wellbeing. We despaired at the thought of living without her. Over and over again, I prayed, "Jesus, I trust in you."

For two years this went on. For two years Kimmie and I were legitimately fearful that Lottie would some day be taken away — that we'd never see her again. We reminded ourselves to focus on Lottie and trust in Jesus.

A few months ago, we were eating dinner and Lottie looked at us, a twinkle in her eye, pointed to each of us and said, "Daddy, Mommy, and Lottie. We are a family." My wife and I scooped her up and did a group hug. "Yes," we told her, "we are family."

Then, a miracle. This August, out of the blue, we got a phone call. The parents had finally signed their rights away. Lottie was all ours to adopt! Within the year, we will officially be a family, and nobody can take her away.

Lottie still battles with her anxieties, but they are diminishing. We are grateful to God for every moment with this child. Our child.

MH

Andrew Leeco is associate editor of *Marian Helper* magazine.

I'm going to lose her. The words kept shouldering their way into my thoughts, no matter how I tried to fend them off. *No. Don't think that. You'll start crying again, and you cannot cry yet. You have to calm down and drive.*

We made it home, and I sent the kids off to play. I opened the computer and found the information I needed. Before I had time to talk myself out of it, I grabbed the phone and dialed. When a woman answered, I stammered through my request. She asked me a few preliminary questions, and then: "What is it that you want to talk to the counselor about?"

"Um, I need help with ... anger management."

Because if I don't change, I'm going to lose her, I added silently as she moved on to the next question.

It had happened that morning outside the library. Ours is a small, quiet town, and after parking the car, I felt safe letting the older kids get out and wait on the sidewalk while I got the baby.

But when my four-year-old sprinted gleefully toward the intersection, I called out, "Bernadette, come back!" She whirled around. "Why?"

I didn't have the patience for explanations. "Because I said so!" I yelled, yanking the stroller open and struggling to connect the car seat to it.

Bernadette looked hard at me, lifted her chin, and placed her hands on her hips. "No," she said, and stepped off the curb into the street.

It was my turn to sprint. Pushing the stroller wildly and trailed by a running two-year-old, I reached the corner and pulled my little girl back to safety. Gripping her arms much more tightly than necessary, I screamed at her. Right there on the sidewalk, I screamed in my small daughter's face. When I finally stopped and let go of her, she fell down on the pavement.

And now, I was going to lose her. Even if no one had seen and reported me, even if the police didn't show up at our house to take her away, I was still going to lose her. If I went on giving license to my rage that way, I would lose her heart for sure. I tried to teach my children about God's love and our need to submit to him trustfully in all things, and what kind of example of caring authority was I providing?

When Bernadette grew old enough to sin, why should she ask confidently for the mercy of her heavenly parent if her earthly parent regularly unleashed demonic fury on her? She would despise me for being a hypocrite — and worse, she might turn away from him, expecting him to be as harsh and terrifying as I was.



Before I became a mother, I was a teacher and generally got along well with my students. Certainly I never screamed in their faces or landed one of them on the ground. But when my own children came, I discovered a darkness in me that I had never suspected was there.

In my lower moments, I have doubted God's wisdom in sending me children at all, or at least in pairing me up with a child who shares my fiery stubbornness. In my very lowest moments, I have told myself that I should never have followed this vocation at all. If I had stayed single, I could have simply remained that nice, harmless lady who never would have dreamed of screaming in a little girl's face.

And yet, if I had not been awakened to the wrath lying dormant within me, I would have lost the chance to try to conquer it, and growth in holiness is the reason for every vocation God sends. I could have lived unaware of my capacity for frightening anger because there was no one close enough to push my buttons in just the right way. Perhaps I would have died one of those lukewarm souls, neither hot nor cold, whom the Lord spits out of his mouth.

That afternoon, I stood at the screen door and watched Bernadette play in the front yard with her siblings. I had held her and asked her forgiveness. My appointment with the counselor was written on the calendar. Already I noticed a hopeful peace seeping into the cracks in my heart.

The ugliest moments of family life make the depth of our need for God most painfully clear. They force us to see what we need to beg him to heal in us. We must see, and we must beg, and we must submit to his healing touch — or else risk losing everything. MH

Marian Friedrichs is a Marian Helper who lives in Kansas.

Yes, it was an old steamer trunk. Yes, it opened with a creak. And yes, within it, I found a treasure.

I pulled out a eulogy, typed on brown paper and protected in a see-through sleeve, just as it was when my father handed it to me 18 years ago. I was in my attic, in April, sifting through stuff. But of course, once you come upon old contents of a chest in an attic, your mind does that heaving fun-house-mirror thing that indicates the past is paying a visit.

Against my will, I was emotionally regurgitated to Philadelphia, back to June 17, 1997. My father was eulogizing his father. “Pop,” we all called him. Speaking before an assembly in St. Bernard Catholic Church, my father was a wreck. I couldn’t make out what he was saying. The sound system was tinny. But at the time, I figured I didn’t need to hear what he was saying to know what he was saying. His words seemed to fold in upon themselves in a single, dreadful echo that hurdled through an open doorway and out onto the street where they ran away like fugitives.

I felt I could have easily identified those words in a line-up down at the precinct. They were bloodied and guilt-ridden. That’s what it seemed to me at the time.

As I read the eulogy all these years later, I was shocked to learn my father referred to Pop as “an excellent provider,” “extremely generous,” a man with “a great sense of humor ... and devoted to his wife.” These things were true, but so were their antithesis, which went unexamined in the eulogy. Pop could be cruel. He was an alcoholic and an unfaithful husband, and my father’s childhood was riddled with land mines.

Like his father before him, my father often repeats stories, including the time when he was 8 years old and with his father down by the dam. From high above, the older boys of the neighborhood were leaping into a bull’s-eye-sized, pine-lined natural pool.

My father had always wanted a dog. Every-one knew that. He had asked Santa. He had begged his parents. On this day, at that dam, his father said, “Go on up there and jump. Do it, and I’ll buy you a dog.”

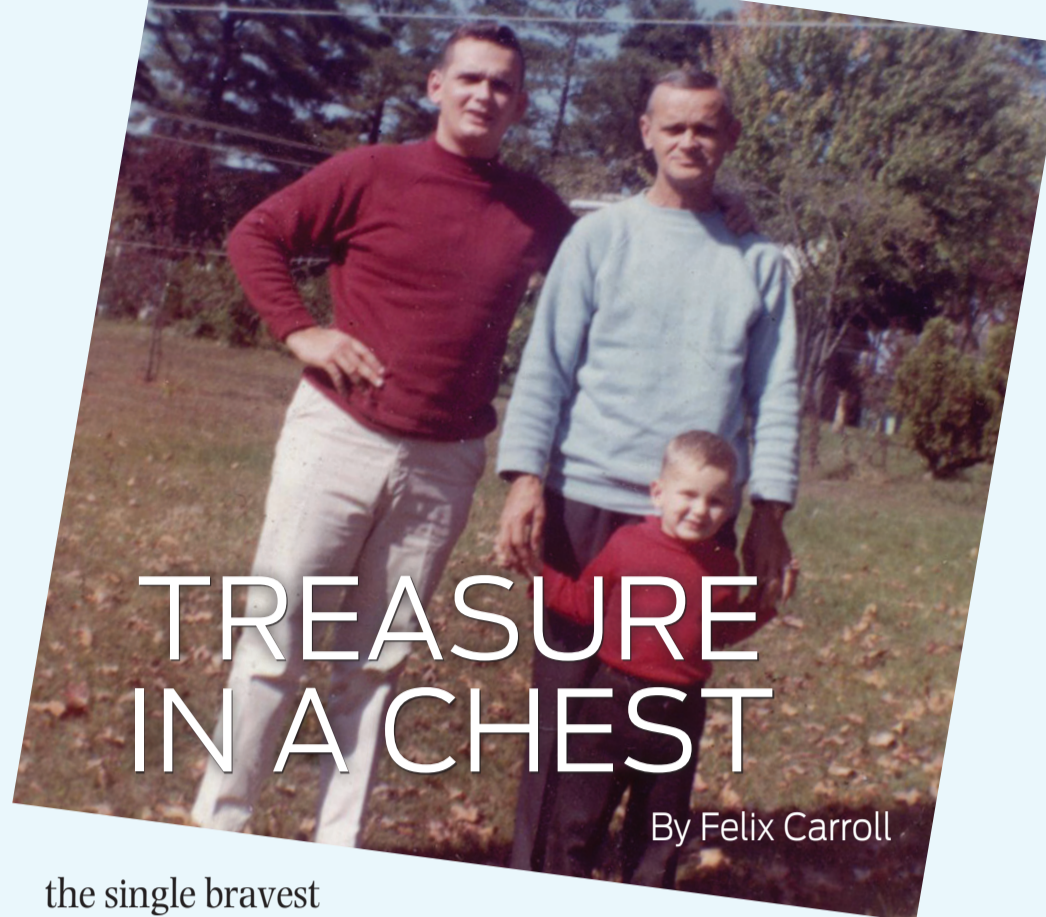
“Really?” my father asked in disbelief.

“Yes,” his father said.

My father got down to his skivvies and climbed up on the dam. He was scrawny, shivering, hugging his arms to his chest. He looked down at the water. He looked over to his father.

“Jump!” his father shouted.

My father closed his eyes, breathed deeply, and leapt —



the single bravest thing he had ever done. When he rose to the surface, he was the happiest boy in history. He was going to get a dog. He ran to collect his clothes, and then he ran to his father. “I did it, Pop! I did it!” His father looked at him, and — here’s the punch line — he said, “You sure did. So what do you want on your dog? Ketchup or mustard?”

He didn’t get the dog. He got a hot dog. I’ve heard this story my whole life. As a child, it disturbed me. Now, as a father myself, it horrifies me. Just weeks before I came across the eulogy, my father told me the hot dog story once again. He now has dementia. The short-term memory is gone. The long-term memory is intact. He told the story, but for the first time he told it for what it was. “That was the most rotten thing anyone has ever done to me,” he said.

In April, in my attic, as I read the eulogy for the first time, I realized how tender, how extraordinary it was.

With his father’s coffin in front of him, my father chose not to wade into the vacuum of regret and bitterness. When he stepped to the lectern, he left the baggage behind and declared asylum from past injuries and injustices. To be precise, he embraced the true freedom found in forgiveness. He chose to praise the man who raised him as “an excellent provider” and “extremely generous” and who had “a great sense of humor” because his father was that man, too.

“Any ill feelings should be buried here today,” my father said. “He was ‘Pop’ — a very simple and sensitive man.”

The eulogy remains tucked away in my steamer trunk. Mercy is my treasured inheritance. MH

Felix Carroll is the executive editor of Marian Helper magazine.

“**P**ray for him.” When I was a child, these were the three words my mother, Christine, always spoke whenever my four siblings and I asked what had happened to my father.

Before their separation, both of my parents were devout Catholics. They brought us to Church, had all five of us baptized, were active in prayer groups and the Church community, donated time and money, and often prayed the Rosary.

But just before I started kindergarten at Sacred Heart School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, my father’s unchecked anger and lifestyle metamorphosed him into a highly unpredictable stranger, to say the least. Friends and family members encouraged him to seek help, but he refused. His refusals were often followed by heightened cruelty towards my mother, so people stopped interfering. We were isolated.

My mother, afraid his violence would metastasize and infect us all, asked her parish priest what she should do. Worried that their marriage was at stake and not fully understanding my father’s illness, the priest told her to “go home, and be a good wife.” He later apologized. But by the time my mother summoned the courage to leave, we’d lost our house, two cars, and my parents’ savings. We went from a “model” middle-class family to one that was splintered and borderline-destitute.

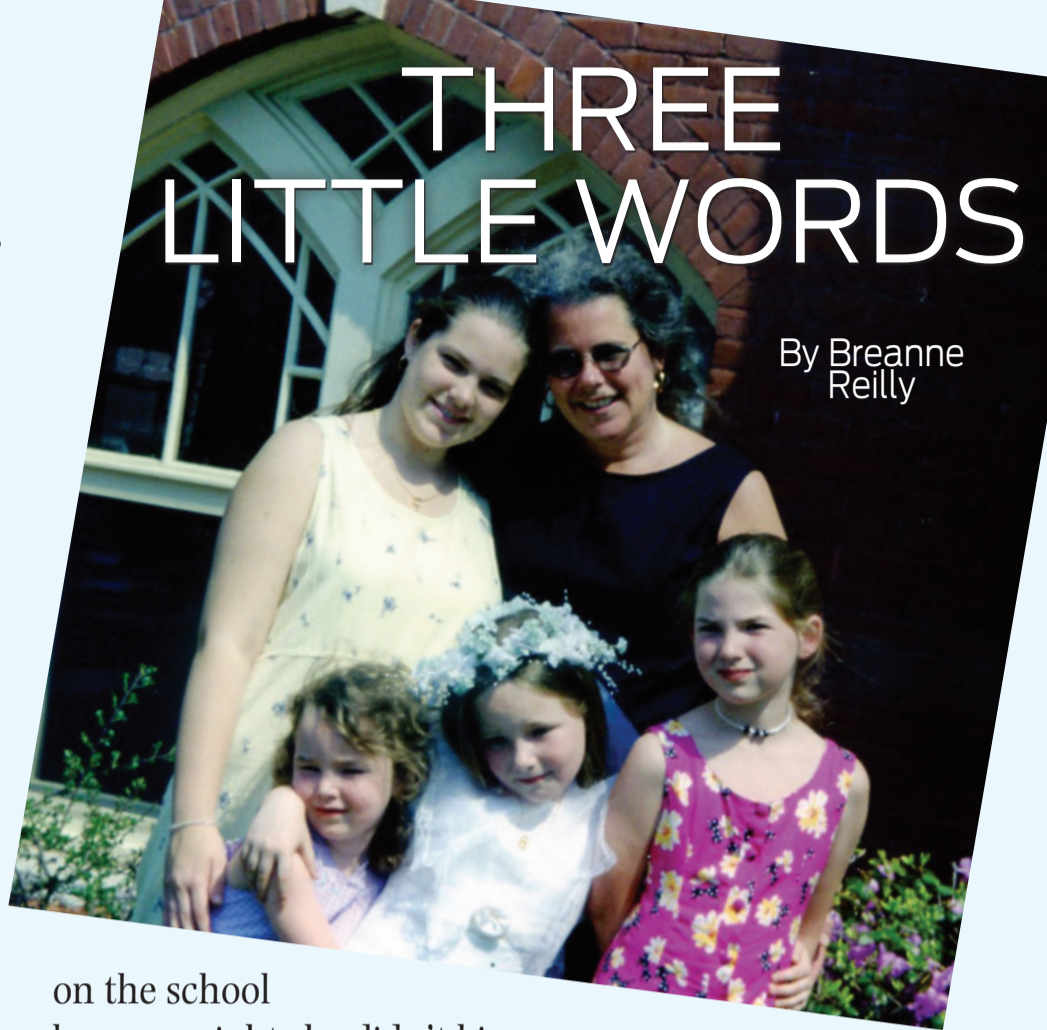
Now alone with five children in an unfamiliar neighborhood, my mother made it a priority that we continue our Catholic faith and education. There were several obstacles to this goal: We’d lost the cars; how would we get to Mass? We’d lost our savings; how would we pay for Catholic schooling, uniforms, and sacraments?

In the beginning, it was difficult, but my mother made it work. To get to Mass at St. Mary the Morning Star, she would gently tuck her three smaller children inside of a little red wagon, myself included, and pull the wagon behind her while my two older siblings followed closely behind. She also taught catechism so that her children would have Catholic school scholarships. And when a little red wagon and scholarships weren’t enough, she relied on the kindness of friends she had met through the Church and strangers who stocked the food pantry.

Though she struggled, she made prayer a vital part of our lives. Before each meal, we said Grace, even on nights she refused to eat until all of us were fed. There was never a morning she didn’t bless us before we got

THREE LITTLE WORDS

By Breanne
Reilly



on the school bus or a night she didn’t kiss each forehead and say, “St. Michael be in your dreams.” She instilled the belief that if we asked for God’s love, we would receive it. And she was an endless reminder of it.

And, despite her pain at both his abuse and absence, she has told us each day to pray for my father. She forgave him, because she understood the best way to teach is to lead, and the best way to heal is to love. She wanted us all to understand that forgiveness, though difficult at times, is a necessary leap of faith, and that faith, love, hope, and forgiveness are all interchangeable words.

Eventually, my mother met worshippers while at a Healing Mass at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy who reached out to my family, provided us with a used car, and helped us find a better home. If it hadn’t been for their help in my youth, my life could have been consumed by violence and addiction, and, like my father, I could be absent from my loved ones’ lives.

Today, my mother watches as her grandchildren, my nieces and nephew, pull each other around in the little red wagon in her backyard. She blesses their foreheads before they leave, and, if they spend the night at Nana’s, kisses their foreheads, saying, “St. Michael be in your dreams” at night. She still prays for my father, though she forgave him long ago. She does this so he can forgive himself, because, when you love someone, you don’t give up on that. MH

Breanne Reilly is a staff writer at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

I started seeing the signs years before the diagnoses. This brilliant man, the love of my life, had begun acting peculiarly. This man who had worked as an accountant at the World Bank — who was always meticulous, always organized — could no longer even balance a checkbook. He started forgetting conversations. He turned suspicious about everyone and everything. He once hid my purse in the dryer for fear someone would steal the money.

This was not the man we all knew and adored. He was ill. That much was clear.

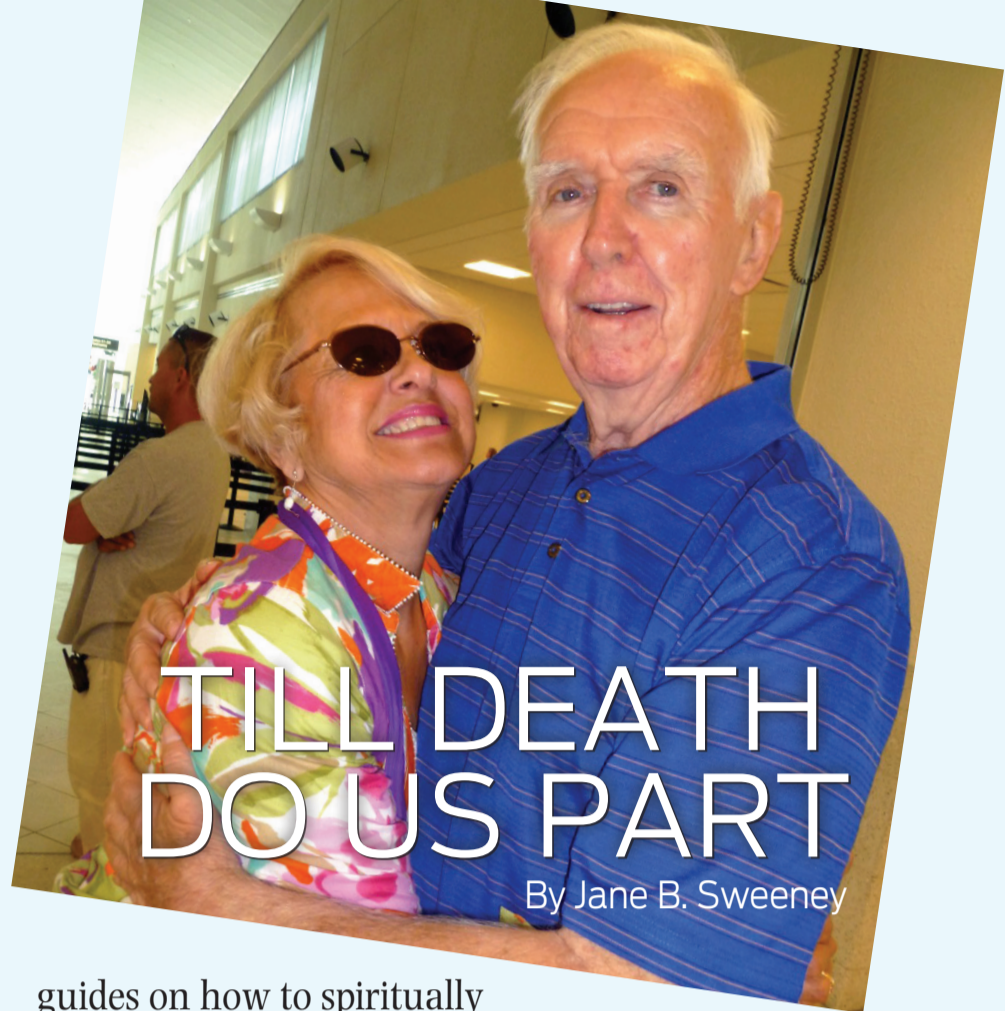
We met for the first time before Mass one morning. Our priest introduced us. We married in 1983. We both had teenagers from previous marriages, five children in all. We called ourselves a “blended family.” He was a Knight of Columbus. Upon his retirement in 1986, we traveled together. We played golf. We battled at checkers. We loved Irish music. And we joyfully watched as our number of grandchildren increased to 13.

Now here he was — my Bernie — barely 72 years old and his cognitive functioning deteriorating. In 2009, we had our explanation. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Two years later, he was diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia and Parkinson’s. Our lives were turned inside out. I would come to know that dementia is a “family disease.” That is to say, it affects everyone, emotionally. His disease was terminal. There was no turning back. It was an intruder. It moved in on us. We knew it would write its own end.

All the while, we leaned on our faith. God gave me the grace to know the depth of his love for me and the depth of the love I had for my husband. Through my tears, I came to understand God’s plan for Bernie and me. God would remind us of our mortality and how our real home is with him in eternity where there is no pain and no disease.

In the meantime, brick by brick, I was determined to build a life here on earth that sought to fulfill my role as a spouse. This “intruder” was bent on separating Bernie and me, tearing us apart, but I wouldn’t allow it. Our bricks would be our faith. The work to assemble these bricks consisted of prayer and care — praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary, and caring for this man to whom I vowed my life in sickness and in health. Our mortar was an ever-binding love.

Upon his diagnosis, I began studying the lives of the saints and soon discovered examples of faith amidst calamity. I began to go to daily Mass. I studied practical



guides on how to spiritually and physically care for loved ones dying from a cognitive disease. Sharing such information would become a ministry of mine that I continue to this day.

The world is filled with people who experience a similar situation to mine — of witnessing a loved one dying. And as we all soon figure out, we have to engage in two seemingly contradictory things: preserving the bond we have with our loved ones while also preparing to let them go.

Let me share how I chose to handle it. I would touch him more gently and not have him see me cry. I would tell him how much I loved him, how the family loved him, and how very grateful we were for him. I would laugh with him. I would pray with him, each day giving the Lord thanks for our life, our love, and our family.

Of course, I never wanted to let him go for even a moment. But for all of us who have traveled this path — whether caring for an ill child, parent, or spouse — we do get pulled into the darkness of sorrow. We sometimes walk in fearful solitude along hospital corridors. This journey, however, must be one of hope. We must pay tribute to our love by reaching for consolation in our faith and seeking to comfort those around us.

Bernie died in 2012. I was with him when he drew his last breath.

He was a beautiful man. In his life and in his death, he showed me how to cry, how to laugh, how to love, how to live, and how to feel good. MH

Jane B. Sweeney of Fort Myers, Florida, is the author of Caregiver: My Love Story — Facing Dementia. Visit CaregiverDementia.org for more information.

My wife's name, Amparo, means "protection," which is appropriate. She's a protector of the faith in our home and, as such, a protector of our family. We were married 39 years ago in Chihuahua, Mexico, a place we left 12 years ago to seek better opportunities in the United States.

Through our nearly four decades of marriage, we have found that, through life's difficulties, praying is sometimes a little easier than hoping. It is through our prayers that Amparo and I have lasted these near 40 years.

Our marriage has had equal parts of joy and hardship. In 1985, after nine years of trying to conceive, Amparo and I were devastated when we lost our twin baby girls two days after they were born. It was the most painful experience of our lives. After that, Amparo asked me to start going to Mass with her. I was raised Catholic, but I had fallen away from the Church. Eager to make her happy and to become closer to God, I agreed. It was the best decision I've ever made.

At this time, while still in Mexico, she became interested in pottery. I was eager to make Amparo happy again, so I built her a studio. To our surprise, I took an interest in pottery and ceramics as well. Today, we share both a passion for art and an art business itself.

Three years after starting our business, Amparo gave birth to our first son, who was followed by two more sons a few years apart. We raised our sons in Mexico for a time, but I began to worry about how the pervasive chaos there would affect my family. Through my work, I was familiar with the U.S. and, envisioning a better life for us, I decided to start a new business in Mesa, Arizona.

By and large, our family adapted well to the move and has assimilated into U.S. culture. But life has not always been easy. When we moved here, we got caught in the middle of a political storm. New, stricter immigration laws fueled an anti-immigrant sentiment. As entrepreneurs, we didn't have any trouble with our business, but as persons, we were not always welcome. The rare occasions when we would slide into speaking our native Spanish were sometimes met with negative reactions — as if the listener had been stung by a bee. Today, we hear the disparagement of Mexican immigrants, particularly in the political realm and, yes, it's heartbreaking.



PRAY FOR EACH OTHER'S HAPPINESS

By Fernando Pinal

We are not strangers to harassment and bigotry. But when we are faced with it, we remember we rely on the Lord and each other.

We have been blessed with three clever, talented, and independent sons, all of whom we love and thank God for. As time passes and our family grows, we have more and more that we are grateful for. We recently became grandparents. But as it is with all families, life is not perfect. We struggle. When our sons need us, Amparo and I don't always agree on how to help them. Sometimes we argue. But at the end of the day, we pray together before we fall asleep and remember that we're in this together.

Amparo is a wife in the best sense of the word. She is a wife in the sense of wisdom, as we understand the wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit. Like the Holy Spirit, she keeps me focused on the truth — the reality that God is present in our lives. And I am always amazed by her readiness to forgive and her willingness to love.

Amparo and I were raised in a traditional society where we were expected to get married and stay married. But society's view of matrimony has changed. We've noticed it as well in the northern part of Mexico, closer to the border — young people aren't getting married and couples are separating or getting divorced. If I could give advice to married couples it is this: As hard as it can be to hope, look to each other and to God. Pray together for each other's happiness. We are witnesses to the fact that, without God's help, we would be in the dark. But with it, we can overcome the difficulties that life brings, strengthening both our bond with each other and our relationship with God, our Protector. MH

Fernando Pinal lives in Mesa, Arizona.



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“I inscribed the names of all my deceased relatives and all my children and grandchildren on the mural. I felt that this is the best gift I could give them because it’s a gift that will keep on giving through the daily Masses and prayers of the Marian Fathers.

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— Lela Guerrette, Marian Helper

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'GOD BLESS AMERICA!'

By Chris Sparks

He came. He loved. He conquered hearts. In his historic apostolic journey to the United States in September, Pope Francis encountered crowds that ran into the hundreds of thousands. He addressed the world's most wealthy and powerful as well as the homeless, schoolchildren, prisoners, disabled, victims of sexual abuse, and families of 9/11 victims.

And through it all, people came to know that he, and the One he serves, loves them.

The 'people's Pope'

Repeatedly, people spoke of him as the "people's Pope," a man who brings hope, a man who loves the least among us. The media gave him wall-to-wall coverage, and the crowds gave him a barricade-to-barricade audience. The Secret Service gave him the largest security operation in U.S. history, larger than any ever accorded to the President of the United States. Congress received him in a historic Joint Meeting of both Houses, marking the first time a pope had ever addressed such a gathering, with an audience that included members of the Supreme Court, the President's Cabinet, and various other dignitaries. The U.N. welcomed him to address their General Assembly — again, the first time

a pope had ever done so.

But he didn't just come to speak to the secular world; he came for the Church, canonizing St. Junipero Serra, an historic, first-time canonization Mass on U.S. soil, held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the grounds of The Catholic University of

America in Washington, D.C. He addressed the U.S. bishops, thanking them for the immense contributions made by the Catholic Church in America to the Church around the world. He came to pray with the faithful, especially consecrated religious in the ongoing Year of

Consecrated Life, passing through crowds of seminarians and novices (including Marians in formation). He prayed with the priests and religious of the Archdiocese of New York in St. Patrick's Cathedral. He celebrated Mass with representatives of the laity, clergy, and religious of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

And really, all that just scratches the surface.

His mark upon history

For a long time to come, the Church in America will be taking direction from Pope Francis' words and exam-

POPE FRANCIS
ELECTRIFIES
THE NATION

MARIANS REFLECT: THE PAPAL VISIT

Brother Timothy, MIC

seminarian

My hope is that, as a result of this papal visit, the Catholic Church in the U.S. will be emboldened to truly live out the Catholic faith in all aspects and that those who have fallen away from the faith may accept the grace to come back to the Sacraments and once again walk the path to holiness.



Father Robert Vennetti, MIC

It's a gift for the Church in the U.S. that he does this [visits Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and canonizes St. Junipero Serra here] a couple months before the Jubilee Year of Mercy starts. Our Marian motto is *pro Christo et ecclesia* — for Christ and the Church. Having the Vicar of Christ come to us — literally, since our men in formation live on campus — helps give them this more universal outlook.





FR. ANGELO CASIMIRO, MIC

Six days. Three cities. Millions of the faithful. Before he headed back to Rome on Sunday, Sept. 27, Pope Francis wowed a nation with his defense of religious freedom, his call for robust environmental stewardship, his defense of the dignity of life in all its stages, his call for love and care for the poor and immigrants, and his criticism of political polarization. He said, “Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side.”

ple during this papal visit.

First among his actions, of course, was the decision to come to the U.S. by way of Cuba, both a tribute to the historic reopening of diplomatic relations between the two countries that had been aided by Pope Francis, as well as a signal that such bridge-building by the *pontifex maximus* (chief bridge builder) was only going to continue. As he said during his in-flight press conference on the way back to Rome, “All walls fall. Today, tomorrow or in 100 years, they will fall. We must find solutions. We must encourage dialogue between different nations, to find them. Walls are never solutions. But bridges are, always, always.”

Again and again, from people in the crowds and media commentators, a common refrain went up: The Church was so restrictive, so rule-bound, but now Pope Francis is saying to love everybody, to welcome everybody. It’s changed my heart, it’s drawn me back, it’s why I’m in the crowd today.

Now, Catholics who have known and loved our previous popes may well be confused or even alarmed by such sentiments. The Holy Fathers have always taught we are to love our neighbors, our families, our enemies, all of humanity as Jesus did. The Church hasn’t changed her teaching, after all. On matters of faith and morals drawn from the deposit of faith, she can’t. So

Brother Gabriel Cillo, MIC

seminarian

To see the Pope in person was an extraordinary gift for me. We were all seated in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception watching him arrive on TV screens. He was blessing the people, and one of his blessings did something noticeable to me. I felt a sense of release that gave me a new interior freedom and joy. It happened so fast and with such authority that I physically jolted forward. I thank God! I have been so touched by Pope Francis since his election, and I hope that, for many Americans, this visit has done the same and even more for them.



Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC

The timing of Pope Francis’ visit for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, canonizing the great evangelist St. Junipero Serra, coming in the midst of the synods on the family, right before the Jubilee Year of Mercy — it’s remarkable. I don’t know whether he planned it or whether it’s really the direction of the Holy Spirit that this was all coming together. It’s very providential, to say the least.



what's changed from his predecessors to Pope Francis?

Quite simply, the same, perennial message is finally getting through to many people it apparently hadn't reached before. To understand this, look at the three recent Holy Fathers. Saint John Paul II reached a certain set of people and made many converts through his tremendous charisma and presence in his youth, and through his witness of holy suffering toward the end of his life. Pope Benedict XVI reached a certain set of people with the clarity, brilliance, and immense scope of his intellectual work, presented with humility and in love. Pope Francis seems uniquely blessed with the gift of reaching a certain set of contemporary people through gestures, leading them to listen to his words.

Mercy: modeled and preached

On this visit, as throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis led with the heart of the Gospel: the mercy of God. Everything else depends on that mercy, for without it, we have no chance. Without Divine Mercy, we do not have Jesus Christ Incarnate. Without Divine Mercy, the morality taught by the Church is impossible to live.

So the Holy Father leads with mercy, as Jesus told priests to do through St. Faustina (see Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 1521), and the hearts of so many are touched. It is our job to nurture the seeds sown through our own holiness, through prayer and works of mercy, such as evangelization and catechesis.

Many of those seeds sown were spread in the simplest of ways, as people in the crowds attested.

"He caught me with his smile," said Joan Giombetti, standing on the Independence Mall in Philadelphia with

her husband and son, both named Peter. "It touched my heart, and then I listened to his message ... the Golden Rule. That's what life is about."

Cynthia Jaramillo, a parishioner in Holy Family Parish in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, said she'd been touched by the Holy Father's preaching.

"I would really hope to see that youth especially gets excited about the Church, about Catholicism, about serving," she said of her hopes for the fruits of the papal visit.

Among those standing in the crowd were immigrants from lands where the Church is being actively persecuted, including Eritrea and China. They served as a poignant reminder of one of the great themes

of the Holy Father: that of "encountering" and welcoming the stranger in our midst, whether that stranger be the unborn child, the immigrants and refugees, the homeless and the poor, or the aging person on their way home to God.

It was a triumph of a visit. Mercy was modeled, and mercy was preached. We have had our way forward indicated by the Holy Father, especially through the models of the saints of the U.S., such as the newly canonized St. Junipero Serra, as well as St. Katharine Drexel and St. John Neumann of Philadelphia, and the four great Americans he focused on in his speech to Congress: President Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton.

Let us dedicate ourselves to learning from the teachings of the Holy Father and, like him, ever rededicate ourselves to sharing the joy of the Gospel with all the world.

MH

MORE COVERAGE
Visit marian.org/popefrancis
for our full coverage on Pope
Francis' U.S. visit.

Brother Christopher, MIC

seminarian

At the Festival of Families in Philadelphia, it was what I've been waiting for the whole time, just that off-the-cuff awesomeness. I just wanted Pope Francis to keep going. The message he had was so powerful, especially knowing the authority he speaks with. His insight on the family is such a good reminder. It's so powerful for the times we're living in.



Father Angelo Casimiro, MIC

After having seen Pope Francis in Washington, D.C., I went to see him when in Philadelphia to officially cap off the World Meeting of Families. What made the weekend even more special was concelebrating with him at the papal Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27, which also happened to be my birthday. Thank you, Pope Francis, for renewing me in my faith, restoring my hope in Christ and the Church, and reawakening the Holy Spirit within me. You truly have a deep love and compassion for every single individual. I pray I may have the same love of Christ for others, especially in my priesthood.



Jesus said, “I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me.” — *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742

DEEDS, WORDS, PRAYERS

Share the story of someone you know who lives Divine Mercy

As the Church prepares to celebrate the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which begins on Dec. 8, we here at *Marian Helper* magazine are turning our attention to Pope Francis’ call urging Catholics to commit ourselves to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

“It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty,” Pope Francis said. “Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples.”

With that, *Marian Helper* is looking to highlight outstanding examples of works of mercy, which we will feature in upcoming issues.

Do you know someone who has been merciful to you? Have you witnessed inspiring works of mercy? Father Joseph, MIC, and his staff encourage you to share your stories with us as we challenge each other to live Divine Mercy as the Lord himself demands. As you do, see the facing page for details about our “Works of Mercy” Contest.

Here are a few examples of people who live the faith:

Sharon, Susan, and Suzanne wanted to do something nice for people in need. Baking birthday cakes for the ill and elderly came to mind. But their work of mercy is not all about cakes. It’s about loving God and neighbor. So, behind each cake is a prayer — a Chaplet of Divine Mercy — said for each cake recipient. Each month a local hospice gives the Pennsylvania women the names of patients who will celebrate a birthday. The “cake ladies” take the list, pray the chaplet for each patient, and then bake each a cake.

“We have people who are close to death, and we have this unique opportunity to pray for them at that special time when maybe no one else knows how to pray, or maybe no one else is there for them,” Sharon tells us.

Though cakes may merely be the icing on top of this work of mercy, they can be a great comfort.

“The last birthday of a person’s life should not only not be forgotten,” says Sharon, “but it should also be an expression of the same love that was shared on his or her very first birthday.”



Sam, Jason, and Sam, three Connecticut high school students, recently ran a fundraiser to purchase bicycles for homeless and formerly homeless people who need transportation to jobs and appointments. They were able to purchase nearly 140 bikes.

Their idea came about after they learned that a lack of transportation was one of the biggest impediments that homeless and formerly homeless people in their community face.



Mark, a Kansas police officer, was dispatched to a local Wal-Mart earlier this year after a woman was caught shoplifting. Instead of arresting the woman, he engaged in a conversation with her. Turns out she is the mother of six, and they were living out of their car. She had been caught trying to steal baby wipes, shoes, and diapers.

Moved by the woman’s story, Mark went and purchased the stolen merchandise for the family.

Mark spent \$300 of his own money.



Each and every day, our Heavenly Father calls us into a deeper relationship with himself. Just like Sharon, Susan, Suzanne, Sam, Jason, Sam, and Mark, we are given opportunities to be merciful through our deeds, words, and prayers.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, may St. Faustina’s words in her *Diary* truly be our own daily prayer: “Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. I will refuse my heart to no one” (163).

MH



WORKS OF MERCY CONTEST

Do you know someone who is making a difference — big or small — in the lives of others? Let us know!

Father Joseph, MIC, is looking to highlight outstanding examples of works of mercy. Finalists will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Marian Helper*.

The First Place winner and a guest will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Their visit will include:

- Accommodations for a three-night stay at the National Shrine;
- lunch with Fr. Joseph, MIC; and
- a personal tour of the Shrine by the Shrine rector.

Runners-up will receive a copy of the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, our "Jubilee Year Pack," and *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told*, by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

Submit your "Deeds of Mercy" nominees to:

DeedsOfMercy@marian.org or write to: "Deeds of Mercy," Editorial Department, Marian Helpers Center, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263.

What are the works of mercy?

Corporal Works

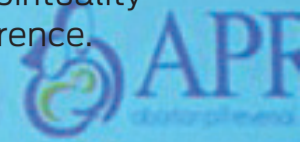
- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Comfort the prisoners
- Visit the sick
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works

- Teach the ignorant
- Pray for the living and dead
- Correct sinners
- Counsel those in doubt
- Console the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive wrongs willingly



Dr. George Delgado's talk in May at the 11th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference.



Dr. George Delgado (left) gave a stirring talk in May at the 11th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference. Following his talk, he was presented with images by the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior, and Marie Romagnano, RN, the founder and director of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

'Protect and preserve'

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

By Breanne Reilly

Dr. George Delgado — a man who has put abortion reversal on the map — practices medicine with Christ in mind. As the founder and director of Culture of Life Family Health Care (COLFS), a non-profit, pro-life family medical group that offers medical care consistent with Catholic Church teaching, he has dedicated his life to providing healthcare to women in crisis pregnancies — no matter their financial circumstances.

In May, he was a featured speaker at the 11th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts, sponsored by Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers.

“He and his work serve as guideposts for many of us

on how to be both great medical providers — drawing on the latest advancements in science and technology — and faithful Catholics,” said Marie Romagnano, RN, the founder and director of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

The sixth of seven children in a Catholic household, Dr. Delgado, 53, said he recognized at an early age his pro-life views and desire to heal others.

“I’ve always understood that innocent life is something to be treated with respect and dignity,” he said.

Dr. Delgado, a member of St. Mary’s Church in San Diego, California, is unabashedly Catholic. His two family planning centers’ waiting rooms in San Diego County have statues of Mother Teresa and Our Lady

of Guadalupe, and a crucifix hangs in every room. The centers' mission statements say his practices follow the Church's teachings on abortion and contraception.

Dr. Delgado believes that spiritual, physical, and psychological health are all intrinsically connected. As such, doctors must play a role that's part pastor.

"Both doctors and priests also have a special kind of privilege, on the grounds of confidentiality, to ask the questions that are sometimes difficult for people to confront," he said.

In 2000, he used his pro-life initiative to found COLFS, which offers supportive counseling, free ultrasounds, free pregnancy tests, and a variety of other free medical services to women in unplanned pregnancies.

"It's dedicated to being strongly pro-life, along with focusing on the emotional, physical, and spiritual health of members of the community,"

Dr. Delgado said. "I wanted to create an organization that would help women navigate the difficult waters in crisis pregnancy situations."

Dr. Delgado said COLFS is the "flip-side" to Planned Parenthood because it provides a holistic and healthy look at sexuality and reproduction.

"Everything we do is in the context of natural law, which is God's design of how to view our sexuality," he said. "Many people have told us they feel pressured at clinics to have abortions. Most of the time when women chose abortion, it's because they felt cornered."

In 2012, Dr. Delgado said he received a call from Texas about a woman who had taken the abortion pill but immediately regretted the decision. The woman had taken mifepristone, the first drug used in Mifeprex medication abortions. She had yet to take the second drug used, misoprostol. Dr. Delgado said he directed her to a local pro-life doctor and prescribed injections of progesterone, the "pregnancy hormone," to inhibit the effects of the mifepristone.

terone, the "pregnancy hormone," to inhibit the effects of the mifepristone.

"I started thinking about my years of experience with progesterone and how I'd used progesterone to try to prevent miscarriage," Delgado said.

Shortly after, Dr. Delgado published a report in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, in which he treated seven pregnant women with injections of progesterone after they had taken mifepristone. Six of the women reported successful births.

Once this study was published, Dr. Delgado said he had abortionpillreversal.com created to make information about Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) accessible to women on a global level.

Their hotline, he said, gets 40-60 calls per month from people with both general questions and women seeking the option to get the progesterone treatment.

"The goal of this treatment method and website is to protect and preserve innocent life while simultaneously protecting and preserving the dignity of the mother,"

Dr. Delgado said.

The treatment's success rate, he said, is about 60 percent — with 120 babies born after APR treatment. (Eighty women who underwent the treatment are currently experiencing successful pregnancies, he said.) His second study, published at the end of September in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, will include this data.

While the APR is sometimes covered by insurance, Dr. Delgado said when a woman cannot afford the APR, they help her find local organizations to help cover the treatment.

"We wouldn't deny this treatment based on an inability to pay," he said. "Even when local organizations are not available or can't cover the costs, we step up to help."

MH

SAVE THE DATE!

The 12th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference will be held May 4-5, 2016, at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Continuing education credit is available for participants.

For more information, visit TheDivineMercy.org/worcester.

THE APOSTOLATES WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD DIVINE MERCY



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

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

‘There is peace in my home’

It had been 17 long and very traumatic years of suffering with my marriage. The numerous crises that affected our relationship never seemed to end. Hardships followed daily.

My faith increased with each crisis. These hardships would cause my husband to either turn to alcohol or lose his temper. I prayed endlessly for peace in my home.

When my husband quit his job, our financial situation worsened.

I turned to Blessed Stanislaus for help and, indeed, he interceded for me. I was incredibly shocked when my husband asked me to call a company to recruit him. It only took one phone call. They asked for his information, and he was quickly interviewed and hired. He has been working for the last three months and he is very happy and has not relied on alcohol.

There is peace in my home, and I can finally sit and listen to the silence.

— CB, email

Daughter finds new job

A month ago, my daughter lost her job at the bank. She had been working there for five years. I remembered that *Marian Helper* has stories about graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. I started asking him for his intercession. My daughter received several interviews and finally got a job offer. Her pay is less, but her hours are better. I will always be grateful for his intercession.

— AR, email

Son promoted to sergeant

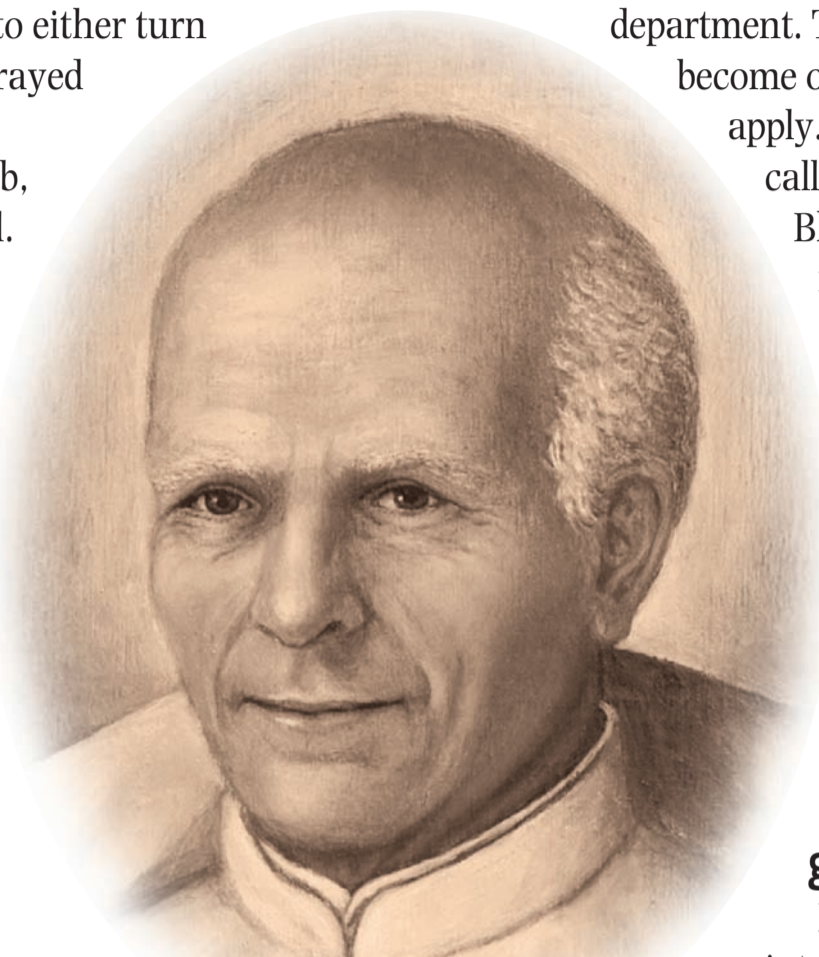
In the Spring 2014 issue of *Marian Helper*, I read about the many graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. I immediately began to ask him to intercede for my son who was studying and interviewing for a sergeant’s position with the local police department. These positions only infrequently become open, and many police officers apply. Soon after, I received a phone call from my son telling me that Blessed Stanislaus had interceded for him. After 20 years on the force, he will assume his new responsibilities as sergeant and will continue his untiring loyalty, dedication, and service to the community. Blessed Stanislaus will be a constant recipient of my daily prayers of thanks.

— AK

Mother and sister get good news

I asked Blessed Stanislaus to intercede for the health of my family. My sister was to have a colonoscopy, and my mother had cysts in her kidney and colon. My sister’s test went well, and my mother’s cysts were benign. I am thankful for the graces received through Blessed Stanislaus.

— AS, Fremont, California



Acknowledgements of graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, 1631-1701, Founder of the Marians.

For a Blessed Stanislaus prayercard (B28-CPPC), 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.



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His body was buried on Eden Hill with his rosary wrapped in his hands and with his colorful propeller cap. His devotion to Mary grounded him. The propeller hat helped him to rise above — to see the sacred in the mundane, the face of God in the brokenness of others.

Brother Fred Wells, MIC — who sang like an angel and whistled better than Bing Crosby himself — died Sept. 9, in Stockbridge. He was 88.

“He would create an atmosphere of such joy,” said the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians’ provincial superior.

“He would shower people with affection and affirmation, particularly the lonely,” said his dear friend Br. John Bryda, MIC.

In matters both secular and sacred, Br. Fred practiced and advocated common sense and simplicity. He never had the ambition to change the world: he knew he couldn’t. His was an apostolate of smiles; he made people smile.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, and one of five children, Charles Frederick Wells, Jr., was raised in a poor but loving home. The family shared a record player. Music filled their lives. And dancing. And prayer.

He took Joseph as his Confirmation name because St. Joseph was “an ordinary working guy who saw the Lord’s hand in everything.” Plus, as Br. Fred would later explain, he didn’t know many saints at the time, and Joseph “was right there in the Holy Family. I figured I might as well start in the Big Leagues.”

During World War II, no sooner was he drafted than Japan surrendered. He would claim credit for that.

He left the faith as a young man. When invited by a pastor to return to the Church, he misguidedly declared himself “unworthy” of God’s love. The pastor set him straight. Brother Fred would spend a lifetime setting straight similarly misguided souls who don’t know the love of the Father.

Inspired in 1954 by an image of Divine Mercy in a pamphlet published by the Marian Fathers, he entered the congregation in 1955. Over the course of his 60

years with the Marians, he served as an accountant, provincial councilor, and assistant novice master. He ministered to the poor, the homebound, orphans, and prisoners.

With his gentle Southern intonation, Br. Fred spoke as if he had sanded his words down to a fine finish, each word rounded off at the end as if to ensure they’d never hurt anyone. He laughed frequently. He listened carefully. And, in the words of Br. John, he sang in the key of “B natural.”

He learned enough Polish to make his Polish confreres chuckle. When asked how he was doing, he could respond in Polish, “Good, but not exactly.”

He was known for the bread he would bake and give away. It was dubbed “Fred’s Bread.” “My first bread came out like a brick,” he said. “If you dropped it on your foot, it would make an impression on you.”

He began wearing the propeller hat in 1992. He’d buy them in bulk and give them away.

“I once gave one to a woman in her early 20s who had cancer.

Chemotherapy had made her bald. You never saw someone so happy as when I gave her that hat. The hat opens doors. If you wear this, your life will never be the same again.”

Brother Fred was diagnosed with cancer in 1998. It would take its toll. He said cancer is “not about death; it’s about life.” It forced him to direct all his thoughts and affections toward God and loved ones. In his last years, he lived like a hermit, content to stay in his simple room, sit by the window, soak up the quiet, and talk to God as he would talk to a friend.

“The Lord is giving me this opportunity,” he said months before his death.

Lenny, the local butcher, once said to him, “Brother Fred, I don’t know where I’m going after I die.”

His propeller hat in place and his spiritual affairs in order, Br. Fred leaned in and responded, “I don’t know either, but I refuse to go any place else but Heaven. I just refuse.”

MH

— Felix Carroll



Farewell, Br. Fred

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Immaculate Conception Novena
Nov. 29-Dec. 7,
and the Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Dec. 8.



Help St. Faustina to be
declared a Doctor
of the Church.

Sign our online petition

marian.org/b28/doctor



WE ARE FAMILY!

I'm still in my first year here at the Marian Helper Center, and I have learned that the Marian Fathers, the staff, and all the Marian Helpers from near and far are truly a family of faith, joined by our devotion to the Merciful Lord and Our Lady and by our prayers for one another. I have also come to appreciate how many spiritual avenues bring us together, based on how multifaceted our ministries are.

One Marian Helper who illustrates this is Jeanne Lewis of Florida (pictured above with her husband, Chris). Jeanne's first connection to the Marians came when she heard of Divine Mercy from a group of nuns who shared the incredible story of St. Faustina. Even without reading the diary in question — the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska — from cover to cover, the message of Divine Mercy stayed with Jeanne. When she heard powerful stories about people's experiences with St. Faustina's revelations, it woke her up, she said. She bought a Divine Mercy Image and had her whole family sign it. It hangs in her bedroom.

Next, she bought a CD of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, and she played it as she picked up her two youngest children from high school. "They were not thrilled at first, but they really know their Divine Mercy Chaplet," she said with a laugh.

On that same CD, Dr. Bryan Thatcher discusses his Marian apostolate work with the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), but she had not realized that he lived nearby, and in fact, friends of hers had helped set up the local EADM prayer cenacle! She was astonished by how the connections with the Marians kept adding up.

Next, Jeanne attended a parish retreat based on 33 Days to Morning Glory, written by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. The experience was transformative. "Once you

get it, you want to share it with everyone!" she said. "I always had a devotion to Mary, but I never fully understood her role."

In 2015, Fr. Mike came to her parish, St. Stephen in Valrico, Florida. Jeanne's husband, Chris, attended the presentation. He was so inspired that he and Jeanne held a 33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat in their home. As a result, more than 20 people consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary! "The retreats encourage us to come together as a true family in Christ," Jeanne said.

Then, when Jeanne's mother-in-law, Susan, was dying of pancreatic cancer this past spring, her family prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet at her bedside, which "gave us incredible peace and hope."

The Lewises are also connected to the Marian seminarians. Brother Tim, MIC, a Catholic convert, now calls St. Stephen his home parish. But his story is for another day!

Yet another level of commitment to the Marians, our ministries, and the faith came when Jeanne and Chris decided to leave a percentage of their life insurance to the Marians.

Thanks for sharing your story, Jeanne, and may God continue to bless our Marian family in our collaborative work for Christ and his Church!



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

Jubilee Year of Mercy resources



The Divine Mercy 101 Kit

Includes everything listed here, PLUS everything in the Jubilee Year Pack below!

B28-DMKIT \$29.95

- Divine Mercy Explained Booklet
- Now Is The Time For Mercy Book
- Divine Mercy 101 DVD
- Pamphlets: Works of Mercy; How to Make a Good Confession; Devotion to the Divine Mercy; The Message of Divine Mercy; Father, Forgive Them
- Father, Forgive Them Prayercard
- Tri-Fold Card

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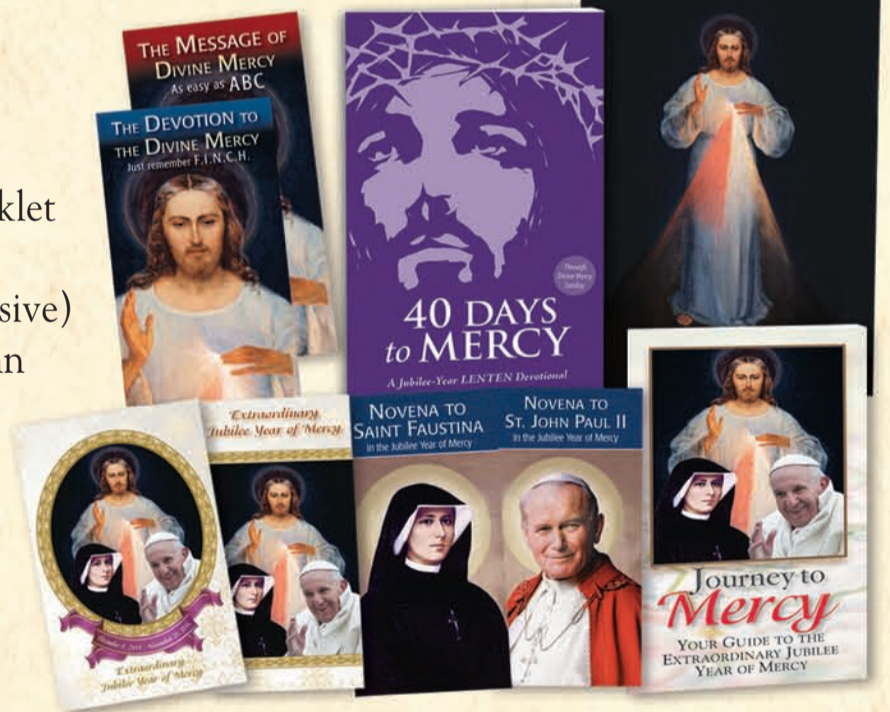


Jubilee Year Pack

B28-JUBPK \$7.95 – if purchased separately

- Journey to Mercy: Your Guide to the Jubilee Year of Mercy Booklet
- 40 Days to Mercy: A Jubilee Year Lenten Devotional Booklet
- 5" x 7" Vilnius Divine Mercy Image Canvas print (exclusive)
- Pamphlets: Novena to Saint Faustina; Novena to St. John Paul II; Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; Devotion to the Divine Mercy; The Message of Divine Mercy
- Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Prayercard

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Year of Mercy Calendar



2 for \$20

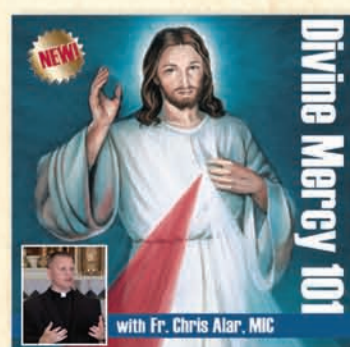
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Stained Glass Nativity Jigsaw Puzzle

This beautifully illustrated jigsaw puzzle makes a great gift for kids and adults alike. 1,000 pieces and measures 30 x 24 inches when completed. Made in the U.S., with recycled materials. B28-SGJP \$13.45

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing

B28-APEN

Christ the Savior is Born

B28-CSIB

Keep Christ in Christmas

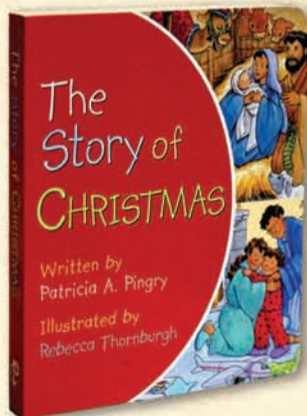
B28-CPB



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The Story of Christmas

Introduce little ones to the meaning behind the Christmas holiday. This 22-page board book features vibrant illustrations and the story skillfully connects the biblical story of Jesus' birth and today's Christmas celebration. B28-CSBK \$6.95



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This ornament beautifully depicts Mary, Jesus, and the lamb from William Bouguereau's painting. Made of stone-resin, ornament is 5¼ inches tall and can stand or hang. Gift-boxed. B28-INO \$14.95



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Help you and your family or your parish live the spirit of Advent with customs and practices to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Eight-panel pamphlet. 3.5 x 7.25 inches. B28-AVPF

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50	\$9
100	\$14
1,000	\$120

A Gift for the Jubilee Year

Give the gift of prayer with a Jubilee Year Perpetual Enrollment. B28-JERPB B28-JERPW AVAILABLE IN BLUE OR WHITE



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File this one under “The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same.”

As we look ahead to the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, which begins Dec. 8, we find it intriguing to look back at another Jubilee Year. In the cover story of the January 1950 issue of the Marian Helpers Bulletin (the precursor of Marian Helper magazine), the Marian Fathers featured the Church’s 25th Jubilee Year, called by Venerable Pope Pius XII, which began on Christmas Eve 1949.

In reflecting on the historical nature of the Jubilee Year, the Marian Fathers posed a fundamental challenge to themselves and to our Marian Helpers to live authentic Christian lives. Together, let’s vow to take up this challenge once again, shall we? Here’s an excerpt from the cover story:



There is no mistaking the issue. Human efforts have failed to restore peace to the world because men have not made their peace with God. These are crucial days in which the world finds itself, scarcely having survived the brutal flagellation of a terrible war and already facing a dark and critical future. All of us are urged during this Holy Year to abandon sin, and in sorrow and repentance taste true spiritual joy. All of us are exhorted to counteract the “spirit of the revolution” by the “revolution of the spirit.” All of us are implored to pray fervently and frequently for all peoples that by contrition and humility they may find peace with God and by real charity find peace with their neighbor. ...

Whoever you are dear friend, take to heart this urgent call of the Holy Father. Much depends on your own participation in the spiritual rebirth that will save the world. Your simple, fervent and oft-repeated prayers and your countless good deeds multiplied millions of times the world over will rise like a pleasing sacrifice to God.

MH



Live the call!



Come join our mission to spread the message of Divine Mercy, devotion to Mary Immaculate, and prayer for the Holy Souls.

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:
Nov. 27-29, Dec. 11-13,
Jan. 15-17, March 4-6,
March 25-27,
April 22-24.

Learn more

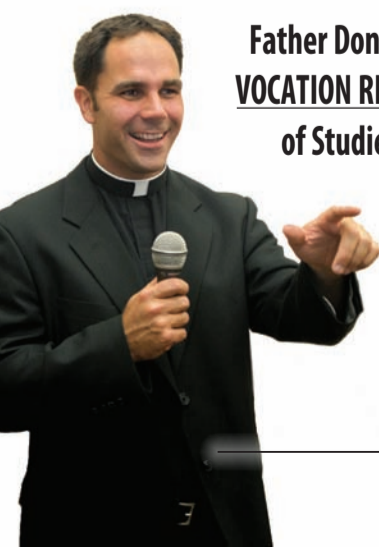
Email: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
Visit: marian.org/vocations

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

Support

Want to help the seminarians? See marian.org/b28 or call (413) 298-1382.

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



Father Donald talks about vocations: marian.org/vocsupport/blessings



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