

The Keys to a Successful Event

Prayer

Pray as much as possible for this endeavor, especially invoking the intercession of the Blessed Mother, Saint Faustina and your parish patron. Be committed to prayer individually and as a group. Pray that many will come and that their hearts and souls will be drawn to a deeper relationship with The Divine Mercy. Make it a petition at daily and weekend Masses. Visit Jesus in the Tabernacle or Blessed Sacrament and ask Him to bless this event and to protect all those working on it and for the presenters' travel, health and families. Have Masses said and candles lit. Pray from the heart and with trust and, very importantly, thank God in advance for all the graces that will be received.

Sacrifice

Much healing takes place at MOMM events, but for some this requires both prayer and sacrifice. Offer any sacrifice you can, even the littlest thing will not go unnoticed by the Lord. Often times there may be opposition to this event, sometimes from within the parish, sometimes from external forces. Do your best to remain at peace and to offer up the challenges. Keep your eyes on the cross and know that the greater the struggle, the greater the victory.

Work with a Team or Committee

Organize a team or committee that will help plan, promote, and support your event. Read all the Promoter Pack documents and share the information with appropriate team members. Follow the instructions. Make a list of actions required, who will be responsible, and by when. Set goals and deadlines and follow-up.

Be Positive, Excited, and Talk It Up

Pope John Paul II said, "There is nothing mankind needs more than Divine Mercy." This is a powerful statement and it is true. Jesus works powerfully through devotion to His mercy and miracles happen every day for those who turn to His mercy. With love in your heart for your friends, family, neighbors and fellow parishioners, invite them to attend and to participate in the event. **Putting up posters and placing notices in the bulletin help, but it is not what is going to draw most people.** These things are merely reminders of what everyone is excited and talking about, not the main source of promotion.

Include all Parish Ministries & Parish Staff

Mercy is at the core of every parish ministry, or at least it should be. Many parishes have a multitude of ministries often driven by activity, yet lacking in a spirit of love and service. Division may exist within or between ministries or amongst staff members. All of us need to be reminded that Christ is at the center of our Church, pouring out His love and mercy upon us and that in order to be true followers of Him we must reflect that mercy towards others. This is a predominant theme in MOMM presentations and one that, if embraced, can have a positive impact upon the entire parish and in your community. So, be sure that all ministries and staff members are warmly and enthusiastically invited to attend.

Assign Responsibilities to a Variety of Parish Organizations

Greater participation will occur when parish organizations or groups are asked to support the event. Financial sponsorship is one way that works well. Other groups can help with preparations at the church or with promotion. Have the choir attend to help make the singing of hymns more beautiful. Have the youth group act as greeters or put up posters. Have the Knights of Columbus help MOMM set up or pack out. The Altar Society might make the sanctuary especially beautiful. Students can make posters or take notes home to parents. Find some way to get everyone involved.

Make this a Community Wide Event

Share this wonderful experience with your entire community. Get the word out to all surrounding parishes not only with posters and flyers, but with personal invitations. Invite priests from other parishes to attend and to help with the Sacrament of Penance, but don't stop there. Ask them to also encourage their parishioners and parish organizations to attend. Don't forget about Neumann Centers on college campuses and other Catholic community organizations, retreat houses, schools or convents.

Promote, Promote, Promote & Take MOMM's Advice

Don't let anyone say, "I didn't know this was going on. I'm so sorry I missed it." Follow the Advertising Tips and Promo Pointers guidelines and **then** take heart in what St. Faustina recorded, "O my Jesus, You do not give a reward for the successful performance of a work, but for the good will and the labor undertaken. Therefore, I am completely at peace, even if all my undertakings and efforts should be thwarted or should come to naught. **If I do all that is in my power, the rest is not my business**" (*Diary*, 952).