



RAYS OF MERCIFUL LOVE

Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2009

www.thedivinemercy.org

“Mercy is Love that seeks to lessen the misery of others”

Pre-NACOM Forum an Unprecedented Opportunity

Mercy experts available to clergy, laypeople, in ‘meet-and-greet’ format.

by Dan Valenti

On Nov. 13, one day prior to the start of the North American Congress on Mercy (NACOM), the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception will host a unique event designed for pilgrims to “meet and greet” Divine Mercy experts.

The Divine Mercy Networking Forum at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, 3900 Harewood Road, NE, in Washington, D.C., will feature a day of workshops and networking as a way to prepare for the Congress and as a way to deepen one’s knowledge of and ability to live The Divine Mercy message.

The Marian lay apostolates will be heavily involved in this forum, designed for those who are actively involved or want to get involved in spreading news of God’s mercy.

The forum is designed to answer such questions as:

“How do I get my pastor and priests to learn about Divine Mercy, celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, or speak about it?”

“I’ve been touched by the message of Divine Mercy. How can I share it with my family, friends, parish, and community?”

“How do I learn more about Divine Mercy so I can comfortably speak about it?”

“How can I meet other people who are spreading the message of Divine Mercy?”

Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy says, “The forum will show how the clergy and laypeople can use Divine Mercy as a practical tool for daily life. It will present pro-life strategies plus pragmatic information for those in healthcare, prayer groups, parish councils, and children’s groups. Priests and pastors will receive plenty of ideas for homilies. Families will learn how to live and love more deeply. In short, this forum will reach people where they are in life.”

Mercy: ‘Practical Tool for Daily Life’

The forum will provide an unprecedented opportunity to learn from experts in The Divine Mercy movement.

Nine one-hour workshops in three sessions will be offered. The apostolate lineup starts in Workshop Session I, from 10-11 a.m., with Dr. Thatcher joining pro-life lay missionary Janis Clarke; Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC; and pro-life attorney Harold Cassidy in a session titled, “Protecting Human Life and Dignity.” At the same time in another Session I workshop, Nurse Marie Romagnano, RN, director of Healthcare



Marian Apostolate Directors, clockwise from left: Bryan Thatcher, MD; Joan and Dave Maroney; Marie Romagnano, RN; and Robert Stackpole, STD

Professionals for Divine Mercy, and Dr. John Bruchalski, MD, of Divine Mercy Care, will speak on “Bringing God’s Mercy to Healthcare.” Completing Session I is a presentation titled “Spreading Healing and Hope in your Parish and Diocese, conducted by Bishop Robert W. Finn from Kansas City, Mo., Fr. Dan Leary from Huntington, Md., and parishioner Marlene Schlect from Minnesota.

In Session II, from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Dr. Thatcher, Patrick Massari, and Terry Muzones address the topic, “Starting and Enriching Divine Mercy Cenacles.” MOMM’s Dave and Joan Maroney, meanwhile, will discuss “Renewing Your Parish and School.” In addition, Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, and radio host Drew Mariani tackle, “Evangelizing: When You’re Not Preaching to the Choir.”

In Session III, from 1:45-2:45 p.m., Dr. Stackpole and Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, will teach on “Training Clergy, Religious, and Lay Leaders,” while Dr. Thatcher and a layperson involved in prison ministry talk of “Living the Message of Divine Mercy.”

Finally, from 3:30-5 p.m., all four apostolates and presenters will participate in a Divine Mercy panel discussion titled, “Ask the Divine Mercy Experts.” As a bonus, participants can also sign up to talk with the experts and network with them following the panel discussion.

Space will be limited for this special day, and early registration discounts are being offered. Registration will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m., followed by the all-day program. To register, call 1-800-462-7426 or register online at mercycongress.org.

The MOMM Report

Hello all! This is Dave Maroney with the MOMM Report. Last Spring, Joan and I were as busy as ever. Here are just a few of the high points of our ministry activities:

New Messenger of Mercy Training Workshops a Huge Success

We kicked off the year with the newest addition to our repertoire of support for Divine Mercy devotees with two highly productive Messenger of Mercy Training Workshops in Texas. The first was for a standing-room-only crowd in our home diocese of San Antonio. This gathering offered an opportunity for all to share the activities in their parishes and EADM Cenacles in evangelizing on Divine Mercy. Much was discussed on how to



prepare for and celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, and products and materials were available so that attendees could walk out the door ready to go to work during Lent 2009. We then

headed further south for an expanded workshop on St. Valentine's Day in McAllen. Blessed to be joined by Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and Dr. Bryan Thatcher, director of EADM, nearly 400 attendees came from all over the state to learn a variety of very practical ways and means to spread the message and devotion to The Divine Mercy and to pick up the materials to help them do so. MOMM looks forward to planning future workshops and increasing support for all of you in the trenches!

Presentation Schedule Indicates the Grace of God at Work

As we were heading down the highway on April 4th, Joan looked up from her calendar and announced that we had given 26 live presentations during the previous 33 days. We were amazed especially when we continued to consider that they were given from the southern tip of Texas to the Dallas area, then all the way up to northwest Iowa, across to southeast Iowa, down through central Louisiana, and then back down to the southern tip of Texas. It is clear that so much could have been accomplished only with the grace of God and the blessing of His Mother. But the tour was not over. Before the 25th of April, we had 11 more engagements, celebrated Easter, and then celebrated a most important birthday party for our two-year-old granddaughter Emily. Whew! Truly a Pauline year! Our thanks go out to all of you who pray for our health and our strength to be on the road. Please keep those prayers coming!

International Celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy — Highlights include a Concert of Prayer and a Larger-than-Life Image of The Divine Mercy

This Divine Mercy Sunday, we participated in the International Celebration of Divine Mercy sponsored by the Cofradia (Confraternity) of The Divine Mercy at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle in San Juan, Texas. San Juan is located adjacent to the Mexican border in the



Dave and Joan Maroney are Directors of Mother of Mercy Messengers

southern tip of Texas, close to where the Rio Grande empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The theme of this year's celebration was to pray for an end to the violence along the border, as well as for the victims of that violence.



A special "Concert of Prayer" took place in the massive Shrine Friday evening, the 8th Day of the Novena, for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Candles covered the altar. They flickered and danced below our Lord solemnly exposed in a beautiful monstrance. Well-known Catholic singer and songwriter David Kaufman would serenade us with a song or two, which Joan and I followed with short readings from the *Diary of St. Faustina*. Two hours passed as if it had been two minutes. We concluded with the Novena prayers and the singing of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy. "Blessed. Moving. Mystical. Every song and every word from the *Diary* seemed to be put in place by God." This is what people were saying at the end of the unforgettable night. Although we had not met David prior to that day, we were vaguely familiar with each other's work, and we did not rehearse. We let the Spirit move us and offered it all to our Lord on the Altar in the home of Our Lady for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. What a night! What a blessing for us all.

Talks Backed by The Divine Mercy in a Big Way

Saturday was filled with talks and activities, including insights and inspirations from Dr. Bryan Thatcher of EADM and Dr. Marisela Dominguez, the Spanish voice of MOMM. All of these talks were literally backed by The Divine Mercy in a big way as we spoke standing before a 40' tall Vilnius image of The Divine Mercy that hung on the outside of the Basilica. The image could be seen by all who pass by on busy State Highway 83 directly beside the Basilica. What an awesome sight it was!

On Saturday evening, the day came to a close as we sang Trish Short's ren-



dition of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy kneeling below this gigantic (no other word comes to mind) image. “I must tell you it was one of the most incredible experiences I have been blessed to be a part of,” says Dave. “I told Jesus many years ago that I was His completely and that He did not have to show me signs and apparitions. In spite of this, I must admit that I have seen many wonderful things through the years. But kneeling before that huge image illuminated in the night, softly swaying back and forth in the gentle breeze, was as close as I’ve ever come to an apparition of a heavenly presence.”

Divine Mercy — Bigger than Life. Bigger than Death!

The benefit of such an enormous image is that the details come into view. We could see that Jesus has a beautiful smile on His face, a big smile. One you can’t really see on a holy card or even a life-sized image. Jesus looked happy to see us, really happy! His right hand seemed to be waving, saying, “Hello. I’m here. I’m alive!” The swaying of the banner back and forth in the breeze that evening gave the impression that Jesus was really opening His gown. He was opening His Heart to us to let the rays of mercy flow. He looked as though He was truly walking, walking right towards us. He was bigger than life. Bigger than death! As we all sang the Chaplet to the music coming over the sound system, a woman some distance behind us began to wail uncontrollably. She continued to cry loudly for a good portion of the prayer. Undoubtedly, she was feeling the cleansing healing of our Lord. Everyone there felt it. It was as if great buckets of grace were falling out of the heavens and landing all around us. When the prayer was over, no one moved for some time.



Taking the Message to the Youth — a Powerful Testimony

We also want to continue to encourage you all to reach out as much as you can to the youth in your families, parishes, and communities with The

Divine Mercy message and devotion. One can never know how the Lord is going to touch these young hearts. We want to thank Roy and Telley, a husband-and-wife team from south Texas, for sharing the following testimonies with us about how our presentation helped them reach out and the effect it had on a young girl and boy.



Dave and Joan with high school students Ryan and Erica Ojeda.

Telley works with the confirmation candidates at her parish. Her first plan was to show the video *Tell All Souls About My Mercy* to the class on Mercy Sunday. However, after thinking about it some, she decided to show it *before* Divine Mercy Sunday, so that the students would be prepared to take advantage of the great graces Jesus offers on this day.

Roy had some experience with projecting videos and sound systems. Through the Knights of Columbus, he had access to a projector, a screen, and a sound system. Telley and Roy arranged to show the video during the regular meeting time for the class. They were amazed at how attentive the students were and said that it was obvious they were listening and taking in the message.

After the presentation, they noticed a girl was crying. She was obviously undergoing a trial in her life. When they asked what was wrong, the girl said that she was in trouble and had been thinking about “doing something” but that now she had changed her mind. We can only guess at the trouble this girl was facing and at the decision she made after watching the video, but Telley said it was clear that the message conveyed in our program gave her light, strength, and hope. Thank You, Jesus!

Telley continued and said that some time after the showing, the mother of one of the students contacted them. She said that she had been in the hospital due to an illness. One night, she woke up to find her teenage son kneeling at her bedside with a rosary in his hands. She was very surprised at his behavior as this was not at all like her son in the past. The mother asked her son what he was doing. He said that he had learned about praying the Chaplet at the bedside of the sick from a video he saw in his confirmation class. He told his mother that he loved her very much and that he was praying for her to get well. Praise God!

These are just a couple of stories about the grace of God working through these videos. Think of all the stories we don’t hear, of all the hearts that Jesus is touching. I think we can all agree on the importance of getting this message to the youth of today, and by God’s grace, He apparently has given us some very important tools to do this through the use of these videos. We encourage all who work with the youth to take the opportunity and present the message of God’s love to them with our products.

Mother of Mercy Messengers is a Divine Mercy Apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Dave and Joan Maroney are dedicated to helping you take the message of mercy to a hurting world. Call or visit online to explore the exciting ways you can share the message with your parish and youth in your community. 830-634-776; e-mail: momm@marian.org; www.TheDivineMercy.org/MOMM.

Tell All Souls About My Mercy	DVD (TASDVD)	\$19.95
Divine Mercy for Young Hearts	DVD (YHDVD)	\$15.95
Divine Mercy Worksheets & Activities for Kids	(YHWS)	
Kindergarten through High School	CD-ROM	\$4.95

Cenacle Growth Continues



GLEN MILLS, PENN.

Cathy Jacobs wrote and told us:

Our EADM Cenacle began in 2005 with a gentle push from the Holy Spirit. For a few years, I had felt pulled in the Divine Mercy direction, but I had never pursued it. One day, I telephoned Teddy Strates. She had established several cenacles in the area and an article had been written about her in our local *Catholic Standard and Times* newspaper. Teddy and George Hudson, co-facilitators of one of the groups, invited me to attend a meeting and see if it was something in which I would want to become involved. That was the beginning of my parish's (Saint Pius X) Divine Mercy Cenacle. We have been going strong ever since!

We have 18 members and meet every other Friday afternoon. We start in the parish Divine Mercy Chapel and recite the Chaplet, a prayer for priests, and sing a song to The Divine Mercy. Afterwards, we adjourn to our conference room and begin our cenacle meeting. Members participate with fervor in the readings and discussion that follow. They have taken the message of mercy into their hearts and have allowed Jesus to transform them from within.

For our work of mercy, we do one-on-one mentoring at a local home for mentally challenged young girls and women. We also spread the message of The Divine Mercy at local nursing homes by praying The Divine Mercy Chaplet with residents, and attend pro-life vigils at Planned Parenthood sites. Many members are able to attend daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

On the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday, we present a demonstration cenacle meeting at a local retreat house. We show attendees how an actual cenacle meeting is conducted. Hopefully, they will be inspired to start a cenacle in their own parish! Also, our EADM Cenacle hosts an annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration with over 500 in attendance.

Our pastor, Father James Hutchens, is very supportive of our efforts. We feel very blessed to be chosen to spread the message of The Divine Mercy.

We Want to Hear From You!

If you have started a cenacle, please send us a photo in jpeg format of the group and a 4-6 paragraph write-up on what your group is learning, a favorite lesson, works of mercy, etc. to Bryaneadm@sprynet.com

SAN JOSE EXTENSION, DUMAGUETE CITY, PHILIPPINES

Maribec Ruiz wrote and told us:

Greetings from the Philippines! I have been spreading the message of The Divine Mercy and handing out images, and I want to learn more about Divine Mercy. I hope to help start cenacles of prayer and help others better understand the message of mercy. I am currently working in Ipil, a Muslim area. The first photo is with my son at the "Divine Mercy Hills;" it is nine hours travel from Ipil and where I work as a physician. The Marians are custodians of the grounds, and I saw Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, there. I said to him, "Aren't you the priest I see on EWTN?" He smiled and said, "Yes!"



It was difficult to get a copy of the *Diary of Saint Faustina* since the headquarters in Manila usually runs out. I was beginning to lose hope when I was given one by Fr. Valerian Pozniak, MIC. After all the begging I did, the Lord answered my prayer!

I look forward to learning and sharing more about The Divine Mercy!

YARAPOS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Sister Margaret Olike, Sisters of the Rosary, wrote and told us:

Thank you to the EADM Office for sending me the parcel of materials on The Divine Mercy. I received them the day before Divine Mercy Sunday, so all the materials were brought to the Church and blessed.

I gave some materials to a young man that attended World Youth Day in Australia last year. He is a member of the youth group and helps in the Feast Day celebration every year.

In our small community in Yarapos, we pray the Chaplet during Adoration for the sick and dying. We have started a Divine Mercy group, and many people have witnessed the miracle of Divine Mercy. One man was paralyzed, and I prayed the Chaplet for him. He moved a bit and advanced to a wheelchair and is now healed!

Thank you for all you do, and please pray for us!

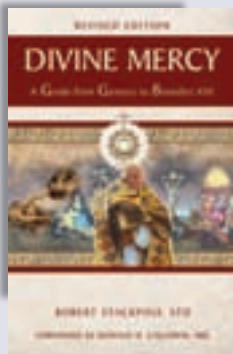
Questions About Starting A Cenacle? Call the EADM OFFICE at toll-free 1-877-380-0727, and we'll send you a free informational packet with DVD on the ministry and how to start a Divine Mercy Cenacle.

NEW! Revised Edition

DIVINE MERCY:

A GUIDE FROM GENESIS TO BENEDICT XVI

Join Divine Mercy expert Robert Stackpole, STD, as he explores God's mercy throughout salvation history. With this guide, learn what Scripture, the Church's great theologians, the saints, and recent popes have said about God's mercy. The revised edition expands on St. Augustine and Pope Benedict XVI and includes a new chapter on St. Bernard of Clairvaux.



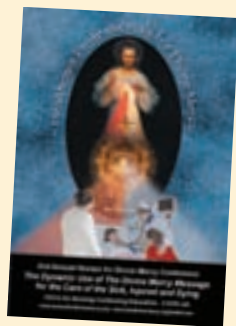
F-AGGB2 \$14.95

"This is a book that disciples of Divine Mercy have been waiting for! It's a guide to what Scripture, the Church's great theologians, the saints, and recent popes have said about Divine Mercy. I highly recommend it."

— Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR
EWTN TV show host and prominent Catholic author

Divine Mercy Conferences for Medical Professionals DVDs

Everyone will enjoy these professional education programs from our annual conferences. They contain an exciting variety of expert speakers, plus powerful personal witnesses.



2009 Conference (4 DVDs, 15.0 CEUs)
F-DNC9 \$35.95

2008 Conference (4 DVDs, 15.0 CEUs)
F-DNC8 \$35.95

2007 Conference (4 DVDs, 14.5 CEUs)
F-DNC7 \$34.95

2006 Conference (4 DVDs, 15.0 CEUs)
F-DNC6 \$42.00

2005 Conference (2 DVDs, 8.5 CEUs)
F-DNC5 \$22.50

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for a great Conference on The Divine Mercy in Tampa on March 6, 2010. The featured keynote speaker will be Fr. Don Calloway, MIC; he will speak on Our Lady and his conversion story.



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC



Immaculee Ilibagiza

Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the Rwandan holocaust and a noted speaker, has also been invited and is tentative at the time of this printing. For more information, call EADM in Tampa at 1-877-380-0727.

Upcoming Divine Mercy Events

There are numerous Divine Mercy conferences and workshops taking place across the country. These are fruits of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy that took place in Rome in April, 2008:

- **Fourth Annual Divine Mercy Conference:** Sept. 12, Sacramento, Calif. Cost is \$15 advanced purchase, \$20 at the door. Contact John Doering at (530) 677-2805 or at www.DivineMercySacramento.org.
- **EADM Day of Reflection:** Dr. Bryan Thatcher, Sept. 19, Vancouver, B.C. Contact Ruby Villaruz at [rubyvillaruz@yahoo.ca](mailto:rubbyvillaruz@yahoo.ca).
- **Apostolates Workshop and DM Conference:** Nov. 7, Los Angeles, Calif. area – venue to be determined. Contact Claudia at 818-342-6626, e-mail at DivineMercyClaudia@earthlink.net or go to www.apostlesofdivinemeracy.org.
- **Pre-NACOM Divine Mercy Networking Forum:** Nov. 13, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C. Contact the Marian Helpers Center at 800-462-7426 or go to www.thedivinemeracy.org/events.
- **North American Congress on Mercy:** Nov. 14-15, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Contact Peter Markavage, Marian Helpers Center at 800-462-7426 or go to www.mercycongress.org.
- **DM Conference:** Saturday, March 6, 2010, Tampa, Fla. Contact EADM at 1-877-380-0727.
- **DM Conference:** Oct. 8, 2010, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Dick Bolden of Rosary Evangelization Apostolate at 414-570-4389.

‘We Have Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself’

by Bryan Thatcher, MD

One of the most famous quotes from a speech came from the first inaugural address of Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 4, 1933. In it, he stated:

This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure, as it has endured, will revive and will prosper.

So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

No matter our race, gender, creed, or financial status, we will all face adversity as we traverse this valley of tears. Financial hardship, poor health, divorce, the loss of a loved one, the struggle with addictions — all will be tested. How do we continue to face these demons that are so much a part of our daily lives? We must first prepare for battle; we must put on the armor of God! *“Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equivalent of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph 6:14-17).

We must speak the truth, and we must live that truth! Never be afraid to tell others that you are a Christian. All of God’s creatures are special, but many in our nation are more preoccupied with saving white-tailed sparrows and tree frogs or the debate on the interrogation of those that would kill us, than on the act of partially delivering a human infant ready



to take its first breath by inserting a scalpel into its skull, and extracting its brain. The young child, that was minutes away from enjoying the “right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” is then delivered still-born. “Don’t talk about it, and don’t go there in conversation, as that is a personal matter between a woman and her doctor,” I hear people say. What should be a most exciting and memorable event, the birth of a child, has for some become a most heinous event. Children, who are a gift from God, are increasingly being looked on as a bother, a nuisance, and an inconvenience.

However, we must act out of the love of God and with peace. All of our actions must be done out of the love of God. We must seek the truth and learn our faith; we must be prepared to defend our beliefs. We must help others find Jesus Christ, as He said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (Jn 14:6). So many are floundering in search of peace and happiness and have lost their way. The saying rings true, “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.”

What is the answer? Remember that fear is incompatible with trust in God. You cannot be anxious, fearful, and discouraged if you trust in the Lord. Let us reflect on the words of our Lord to St. Faustina, **“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy”** (*Diary*, 300).

Yes, the antidote has arrived! Isn’t that a cause for hope? Now, it is up to the people to take it so that we may live. No matter how discouraged you become, today I ask that you pray for the strength to trust in Him in all situations! For, **“the more a soul trusts, the more (graces) it will receive”** (*Diary*, 1578).

Healthcare Conference a Big Success!

The recent Conference for Healthcare Professionals at Holy Cross College was a huge success, according to Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

Over 300 professionals daily attended each day of the conference on bioethics and spirituality. The keynote speaker, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Ph.D., captivated the audience with his talk entitled “Divine Mercy and the New Psychology.” Other speakers included Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, Fr. Germain Kopaczynski, OFM Conv., Ph.D., STD, and via a video presentation, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC.

Marie also announced plans for a new series of talks on major issues in bioethics and spirituality. “We frequently get asked questions regarding end-of-life issues, contraception, living wills, etc. We hope to put together a series of teaching tapes that will help laypeople deal with these difficult issues,” she said. “In addition, we have DVD’s on the previous years’ conferences, and I encourage the laity



JAMES MONTANARO

to get a copy of these basic talks as they will assist you in forming your mind, heart, and conscience on these crucial and relevant topics.”