



# Friends of Mercy

Marians of the Immaculate Conception  
Association of Marian Helpers • Eden Hill • Stockbridge, MA 01263

## The Power of the Chaplet

*Your prayers for peace and mercy make a difference.*

by Patrick Lorenz

In times of war, conflict, and terrorism, it's easy to feel helpless in the face of these devastating tragedies. Fear can take hold of us when we are constantly waiting for the next terrible thing to happen.

In these difficult times, it often seems as though there is nothing we can do to make a difference. Trying to change the world for the better almost seems a waste of time. After all, we're not national leaders — presidents or prime ministers. Our opinions, ideas, and pocketbooks can only go so far. We're just regular people, doing our best to live our lives and move onward to heaven.

But through one of the revelations received by St. Faustina, recorded in her Diary, we get a look at the behind-the-scenes action in heaven. Or, as St. Paul might have said, we get a "glimpse behind the veil." This is a revelation of how powerful our prayers for mercy are in the eyes of God.

### *Faustina's Vision*

Saint Faustina saw an Angel, the executor of divine wrath. He was clothed in a dazzling robe, his face gloriously bright, and a cloud was beneath his feet. From the cloud, bolts of thunder and flashes of lightning were springing into his hands; and from his hand they were going forth, and only then were they striking the earth. She began to implore the Angel

to hold off for a few moments, and said the world would do penance. But her plea was a mere nothing in the face of the divine fury. Then she saw the Most Holy Trinity. Its majesty pierced her deeply, and she didn't dare to repeat her entreaties. She then felt in her soul the power of Jesus' grace. She was instantly snatched up before the Throne of God. She started pleading with God for the world with words only heard interiorly.

As she prayed in this manner, she saw the Angel's helplessness: he could not carry out the just punishment, which was rightly due for sins.

"The words with which I entreated God are these: **Eternal Father, I offer**

### *A Message from Father Joseph, MIC*

Thank you for your interest in joining the Friends of Mercy Club. Through the work and prayers of the members, the Marians spread the message of The Divine Mercy. Members try to say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 o'clock each day, especially on Fridays, for the intentions given in their monthly newsletter. In turn, their own intentions are remembered each day at 3 o'clock at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

The message of Divine Mercy is quickly spreading throughout the Church. When the Holy Father dedicated the Divine Mercy Shrine in Poland, he said, "I wish solemnly to entrust the whole world to Divine Mercy. I do so with the burning desire that the message of God's merciful love, proclaimed here through St. Faustina, may be known to all the people's of the earth and fill their hearts with hope."

**You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us ... and on the whole world"** (Diary, 474, 475, 476).

In this vision of St. Faustina, the power of prayer, especially the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, is revealed.

The Lord attached incredible promises to the recitation of the prayer: **I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy** (Diary, 687).

We can make a difference with our recitation of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy. Let us continue to ask the Lord for mercy on ourselves and on the whole world, and be confident that these prayers are heard. ○

# Divine Mercy Timeline



## Birth

**Aug 25, 1905**

Helen Kowalska is born in the village of Glogowiec, Lodz Province, Poland.

## Life as a nun

**April 30, 1926**

Helen Kowalska receives her habit and her new name: Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

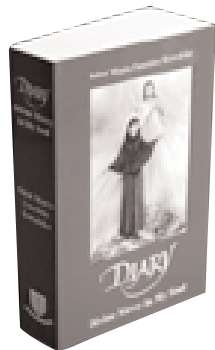


## A Vision of the Lord

**Feb 22, 1931**

Through a vision, the Lord Jesus commissions Sr. Faustina to paint an image according to the pattern she beholds (*Diary*, 47).

The painting of the image of The Divine Mercy, executed by artist E. Kazimirowski under the guidance of Sr. Faustina, is completed. She cries because the image is not as beautiful as she had seen Him.



## Secretary of Mercy

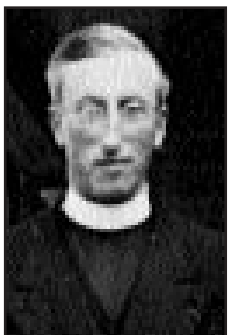
**July 28, 1934**

In obedience to the Lord Jesus and her confessors, Sr. Faustina begins writing her *Diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

## Passing On

**Oct 5, 1938,**

at 10:45 p.m., Sr. Faustina, after long sufferings borne with great patience, goes to the Lord.



## Message brought to the U.S.

**May 1941**

Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, flees war-torn Poland and reaches his Congregation's House of Studies in Washington, DC, after a miraculous trek through Lithuania, Russia, Siberia, and Japan. He brings with him materials concerning the message, devotion, and feast. These had been entrusted to him by Fr. Michael Sopocko, Sr. Faustina's primary spiritual director.

## Spreading the message

**Oct 1943**

Three of Fr. Joseph's fellow Marian priests decide to undertake the spreading of the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

## Divine Mercy message prohibited

**March 7, 1959**

As Sr. Faustina had predicted (*Diary*, 378), the message and devotion fall upon hard times with Church authorities, and promotion of the message is prohibited.



## Shrine Completed

**1960**

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, is completed after 10 years of work by local craftsmen.



## Life Examined

**Oct 21, 1965**

Pressure from the laity sparks the Archdiocese of Cracow to begin a solemn session for the Informative Process relating to the life and virtues of Sr. Faustina. It is 27 years after her death, and from this moment, she is

given the title, Servant of God. The process is conducted under the overall leadership of Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Cracow.



## Ban is lifted

**April 15, 1978**

After 20 years, the Vatican lifts the ban on the message and devotion. A theologian appointed by Cardinal Wojtyla has just spent 10 years thoroughly examining the *Diary*. In his final report, he states nothing is found contrary to the faith. Six months after the ban is lifted, Karol Wojtyla is elected Pope.



## Two Miracles

**March 28, 1981**

Maureen Digan, suffering from incurable lymphedema, is miraculously healed during prayer at Faustina's tomb. And in 1995, Fr. Ron Pytel prays on Faustina's feast day, Oct. 5, for healing of a serious heart condition. After venerating a relic of hers, he collapses and feels paralyzed. According to his doctors, his heart is healed.



## Process of Canonization

**Jan 31, 1968 – April 30, 2000**

By a Decree of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the process of Canonization of the Servant of God, Sr. Faustina is formally inaugurated. On March 7, 1992, she is declared a "Venerable Servant of God," and on April 18, 1993, she is beatified in St. Peter's Square.

On April 30, 2000, Divine Mercy Sunday, she is canonized by Pope John Paul II. She is the first saint declared by the Church in the Great Jubilee Year.

## Works of mercy

# Falling in step with Jesus' marching orders

**H**ans Hallundbaek — a man who all but dropped out of the business world after all but seeing the burning bush — is adamant he doesn't want this story to be about him.

But his presence is hard to maneuver around — nearly as hard to maneuver around as the boxes of donated clothing, toys, and typewriters stacked last summer in a 53-foot trailer beside an abandoned warehouse in Mount Kisco, NY.

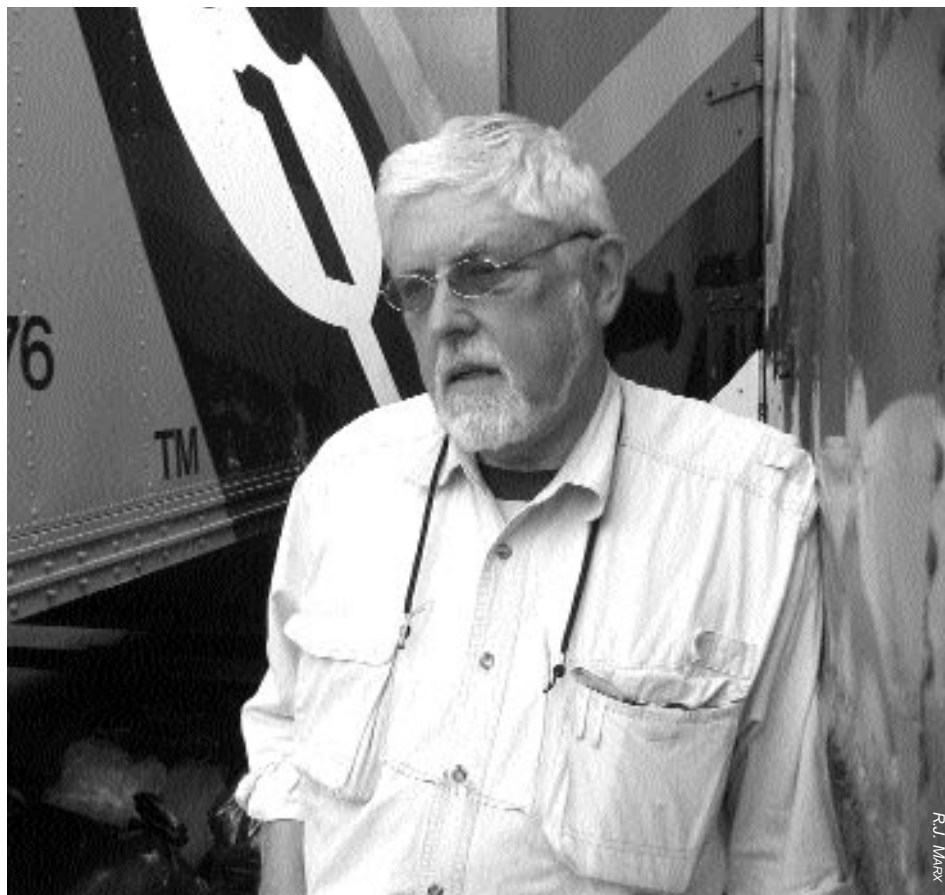
“So now we have to think about how we get this to Africa,” Hans said, while inside the trailer in late June trying to instill a little order in this chaos of kindness.

His plan succeeded. Not only did he spearhead a community effort of churches, businesses, and private individuals to fill the trailer with needed supplies, but he raised an additional \$7,000 to ship the materials in a 40-foot storage container.

Hans, who lives in Katonah, NY, is a longtime volunteer educator at prisons. His recent undertaking has centered on establishing ties between local groups and churches and the African-based group Kibera Community Self Help Programme (KICOSHEP), based in the Kibera slum of Kenya. The slum has a population of nearly 2 million people, including about 400,000 orphans. Conditions in Kibera are as dismal as any in the world. In all, 25 percent of Kibera is infected with HIV/AIDS. The slum has no sewers, no running water, no electricity, no public schools, and no government-run medical facilities.

His works of mercy began with a calling 15 years ago. It was 1989, and he had had enough of the business world. “I guess it became this mid-life thing. I found myself thinking that there's got to be more to life than business,” Hans said. “So I became very interested in social issues — the poor in Appalachia and Habitat for Humanity.

“I went to Central and South America,” he continued. “I was just trying



**Hans Hallundbaek, beside the storage container filled with donated items he shipped to Africa in time for winter.**

to understand why half the world's population is poor and almost dying and living on almost nothing, while the other half is climbing some kind of material ladder hoping to get to the top?”

In the late 1980s, Hans literally walked in off the streets and entered the New York Theological Seminary to study theology. That began his spiritual pilgrimage, which led him to complete a master's of divinity and a doctoral ministry degree.

In a biblical sense, Hans says that in his own way, he found the burning bush. He began to understand God's expectations of us — that we are to take care of the least of our brothers and sisters. He committed himself to works of mercy. He started working with prisoners eight years ago, “and I will do that for the rest of my life.”

Hans went to meet the container of donated items in August to help distribute them, along with KICOSHEP.

“In Kibera,” Hans said, “one in every four is infected by HIV, and they have no medication. And once you're infected, you die. Society there has collapsed. It's a catastrophe.”

But come spring, he plans to fill another container and send it to Kenya.

“If you look at it from a biblical perspective,” Hans said, “we have an obligation to take care of the poor and the needy and the imprisoned. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus goes so far as to say if you don't take care of them, then you won't go to heaven.”

Those are marching orders, he said. Hans, himself, has fallen into step. ○

