



Friends of Mercy

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

Michigan's Mercy radio

After working with the Marians at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, John Kruse returned to his native Michigan. As Executive Director of Michigan Catholic Radio, John still cooperates with the Marians to spread the message of Divine Mercy. John describes the growth of Michigan Catholic Radio.

In the fall of 1997, during a conference in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Mother Angelica, the founder of EWTN, spoke about the power of Catholic radio and called those in attendance to start a Catholic radio station in Detroit.

The Federal Communications Commission had not granted *any* new radio licenses in Detroit in almost 40 years, which meant an entire radio station and existing license would have to be purchased. Detroit is the sixth largest radio market in the nation, with radio stations costing millions of dollars. When Mother Angelica learned of these obstacles, her simple reply was "the Holy Spirit will provide." She was right.

WCAR 1090AM was for sale and through the hard work of my father, John A. Kruse and others, investors were found



Prayer Intention for the 3 o'clock Chaplet

Please join in praying that, inspired by St. Faustina, club members and their families would grow in love for Jesus in the Eucharist.



PATRICK LORENZ

Without leaving his office at National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, Shrine Rector Fr. David Lord, MIC, greets listeners of Michigan Catholic Radio.

and purchase agreements were drawn up. At my suggestion, we decided to consecrate Detroit Catholic Radio to The Divine Mercy!

After three years of working with the Marians, I knew the first person to call was my old mentor, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC. I shared with him that Michigan would soon have Catholic radio in one of the very first cities in America where the Marians began to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy in the forms proposed by Saint Faustina!

I asked Father Seraphim if he thought it would be possible to obtain a blessing from Pope John Paul II for this new "Mercy Radio" in Detroit. Imagine my surprise when he simply asked me, "What do you

want it to say? I am traveling to Rome in a few weeks, and I can present the request for an Apostolic Blessing to His Holiness."

On October 15, 1998, Pope John Paul II blessed Detroit Catholic Radio WCAR 1090AM and all its listeners and supporters.

Detroit Catholic Radio has grown to include WOAP 1080AM, covering mid-Michigan and now operates as Michigan Catholic Radio. The Marians play a key role in helping our network reach thousands of people with the message and devotion to The Divine Mercy. The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy airs three times a day on 1090 and 1080AM, and my office has distributed thousands of Marian prayercards, pamphlets, and St.

Continued on back page



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KRUSE

John Kruse of Michigan Catholic Radio learned about Divine Mercy from the Marians.

Members' Corner

“Devotion to Divine Mercy has a very special place in my life. I first learned about it when I picked up a leaflet at a suburban Chicago hospital chapel seven years ago. I went to the community hospital to pray as my daughter was having surgery. The only material in the whole place were a few leaflets on the back table. I sent away for a few booklets on the Chaplet, and my husband and I started to pray it daily. My husband had cancer.

Our church started to have a holy hour on Wednesday afternoon and evening, and we started going from 3 to 4 p.m. — saying the Chaplet with a few others. The last year of my husband's life was eased by his trust in Jesus. I purchased a large image of The Divine Mercy, and it was in place for Mercy Sunday 2001. He died Sept. 8, 2001, the day after his 80th birthday. Our family's image of The Divine Mercy was at his wake and a small version of it was in the casket.

Trusting in God has helped me deal with my loss after 49 1/2 years of marriage, 10 children, and 21 grandchildren.

His sister had not been to church for over 40 years. When I heard she was dying I sent her a rosary and the booklet not knowing how she would react. Her daughter said she was happy to receive them and had started to say the prayers. She came back to the Church on Sept. 13, 2003, on her deathbed.

Our world really needs God's mercy.

— FP

How has Divine Mercy touched your life? Share with us by e-mail at friendsofmercy@marian.org or write to us at the Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, attn: Editorial Dept.



Marie Romagnano, RN, addresses pilgrims to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Mercy Sunday 2004. Her new guide discusses the spirituality of patient care.

'Nursing with the Hands of Jesus'

From *Nursing with the Hands of Jesus: A Guide to Nurses for Divine Mercy* by Marie F. Romagnano, RN, BSN, CRC, CCM, CLCP, International Director of Nurses for Divine Mercy

An Invitation for Spiritual Nursing

The main source of materials for this book is the spiritual diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, known the world over as the "Apostle of Divine Mercy." ...

It seems she became the first "Nurse for Divine Mercy" when in the hospital herself for severe tuberculosis, she got out of bed and performed a service for a nearby patient who was calling for help.

Nurses can learn from St. Faustina's example of perseverance in prayer, devotion to Our Lady and infinite trust in Jesus to bring the ... Divine Mercy devotion to their own patients.

I encourage every nurse to take up the challenge of Spiritual Nursing everyday and use the Divine Mercy devotion for care of patients, family, friends, and victims of catastrophic events both near and far away.

Nurses for Divine Mercy: Medical and Spiritual Care of the Sick

The main purpose of Nurses for Divine Mercy is to serve our patients with the merciful love of Jesus through devotion to Him as The Divine Mercy. ...

The tenderness and mercy of God is administered through the hands of the nurse. Though the nurses are nothing of themselves, [union] with the Passion of Jesus makes their actions merciful, and takes on infinite value. During this action, the hearts of the nurses are transformed by the grace of Jesus through The Divine Mercy,

and this gives the nurses the love, tenderness, and compassion that is essential for transmitting the love and mercy of God to their patients. This also gives the nurses inner strength to continue caring for their patients in a Christian manner, full of love and mercy.

Spiritual Work of Nurses for Divine Mercy and Training

Nurses for Divine Mercy are called to serve the spiritual needs, not only the physical requirements of their patients.

Nurses for Divine Mercy are instructed in the spirituality of the Divine Mercy devotion and are taught the spirit of Trust and Mercy.... Through prayer and study of the Divine Mercy devotion, nurses will grow spiritually. This will facilitate the sharing of

the elements of the Divine Mercy devotion with their patients and family members. □

Other chapters include:

- The Seven Elements of The Divine Mercy Devotion and Their Importance to the Nurse
- Step-by-Step Guide for the Nurse ... Helping in the Transition Between Life & Death
- Emergency Spiritual Assistance & Spiritual Rehabilitation: Acute Injury, Chronic and Terminal Illness
- Pastoral Care for the Patient: A Spiritual Journey
- Personal Prayer in the Nurse's Life: Divine Mercy in Action

To Order
Nursing with the Hands of Jesus: A Guide to Nurses for Divine Mercy is available from the Association of Marian Helpers. Call toll free 1-800-462-7426 and ask for code **MNTHJ** at \$4.00 plus p/h. Makes a great gift for a nurse.

The common thread in the lives of the saints is their unambiguous desire to be united with Christ through receiving Him in the Eucharist or adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Faustina wrote hundreds of entries in the *Diary*, revealing her boundless longing to be united with Our Lord in the Eucharist. She seized every opportunity to spend time in adoration.



O Blessed Host, in golden chalice
enclosed for me,
That through the vast wilderness of exile
I may pass – pure, immaculate, undefiled;
Oh, grant that through the power of Your
love
this might come to be.

O Blessed Host, take up Your dwelling
within my soul,
O Thou my heart's purest love!
With Your brilliance the darkness dispel.
Refuse not Your grace to a humble heart.

O Blessed Host, enchantment of all heav-
en,
Though Your beauty be veiled
And captured in a crumb of bread,
Strong faith tears away that veil.

Diary, 159

We get a glimpse of St. Faustina's prayer of adoration in the early stages of her religious life. God may be transcendent, but she had no doubt that He was likewise present in the world He had created. She used images of life and the Eucharist, such as a chalice and bread, to describe Our Lord's physical presence, while admitting that faith uncovers the deeper mystery that a crumb of bread conceals. She asked for that grace and power of His love, so she could receive light for the darker moments of her journey through life. Saint Faustina remained confident that God would not refuse a humble soul.



Now you shall consider My love in the Blessed Sacrament. Here, I am entirely yours, soul, body and divinity, as your Bridegroom. You know what love demands: one thing only, reciprocity.

Diary, 1770

Our Lord granted her an awareness of a tender and loving union that continued

Reflections on the Diary of St. Faustina:

The inestimable value of the **EUCCHARIST**

A thematic series

by Br. Leonard Konopka, MIC

throughout their entire relationship. This union was reflected by His use of the word "bride." The tenderness of Jesus toward St. Faustina, His beloved, is only a shadow of His deep and abiding love for all His creatures. We find this hard to believe and must grow into a profound awareness of this love throughout our entire lives. Our Lord seemingly must wait for us to surrender our resistance and unequivocally yield to His willingness to receive us as we are.



Today, I am preparing myself for Your coming as a bride does for the coming of her bridegroom. He is a great Lord, this Bridegroom of mine. The heavens cannot contain Him. The Seraphim who stand closest to Him cover their faces and repeat unceasingly: Holy, Holy, Holy.

Diary, 1805

These reflections of St. Faustina show her great sensitivity in preparing to receive the Eucharist. Her references to a spiritual marriage leave no doubt that she viewed Jesus as the bridegroom of her soul. In the Song of Songs and the writings of St. Teresa of Avila, we see many of the same kinds of intimate thoughts and images used to convey this profound union between a soul and God.



In the Host is your power; it will defend you.

Our Lord to St. Faustina, *Diary, 616*

Saint Faustina's relationship with the Eucharistic Christ also gave her an appreciation for the degree of strength she could receive from Him. It provided her the sole means of support when everyone else totally misunderstood her. So, our Lord gives each of us the Eucharist as an invaluable resource to rely on in our journey to Him.

He does not explain how this will be done, only that we can place an even greater reliance on receiving His power in the Eucharist to better fulfill His will.



I find myself so weak that were it not for Holy Communion I would fall continually. One thing alone sustains me, and that is Holy Communion.

From it I draw my strength; in it is all my comfort. I fear life on days when I do not receive Holy Communion. I fear my own self. Jesus concealed in the Host is everything to me. From the tabernacle I draw strength, power, courage and light. Here, I seek consolation in time of anguish. I would not know how to give glory to God if I did not have the Eucharist in my heart.

Diary, 1037

When souls enjoy mystical experiences of God, as St. Faustina did, they exhibit a ceaseless desire to return often to the source of those great graces. They remain empty and hopeless until their spirits are satisfied by the Presence of God. Though not many of us enjoy such mystical experiences, we can learn from them. With some effort, we can adopt the same disposition of heart. How blessed the soul who knows to go to Jesus in the Eucharist to be sustained throughout life. □

Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC, resides in Washington, DC, and is on the staff of the Marian Community Seminary. He provides spiritual direction, and retreats and talks on Divine Mercy. This article is part of a book on Divine Mercy meditations that he is completing.



Radio

Continued from front page

Faustina's *Diary* to listeners.

For the past three years, I have been broadcasting our morning show from the National Shrine of the Little Flower, where, in the 1930s, Fr. Charles Coughlin broadcast one of the first radio programs in the world.

"Live from the Shrine" airs Monday through Friday from 7-10 a.m. Each weekday we broadcast the daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. as the center of the program. Every Wednesday after the Mass and Chaplet, the Rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, Fr. David Lord, MIC, joins us on the air. Father David prays with us for our listeners' intentions, and then he takes these petitions into the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Other Marian guests on "Live from the Shrine" include Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC; Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC; Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC; Fr. Donald Van Alstyne,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN KRUSE

"Mercy Radio" welcomes guests to help promote Divine Mercy. Here, John Kruse

MIC; Fr. Dan Papineau, MIC; and Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC.

It was through the Marians that I personally discovered Divine Mercy. During my work with the Marians on Eden Hill, I was strengthened and taught the meaning of trust in God's mercy.

As I reflect on all that I lack personally and all that we struggle with to keep Michigan Catholic Radio on the air, I call

WOAP 1080 AM.

to mind what Jesus told St. Faustina: **Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace** (*Diary*, 1074).

□

To catch the show with Fr. David in the Detroit area, tune your dial to WCAR 1090 AM; in mid-Michigan (the Lansing area), tune to

— Mercy in the news —

John Paul II announces "Year of the Eucharist" from October 2004 to October 2005

VATICAN CITY — On the feast of Corpus Christi, Pope John Paul II announced a "Year of the Eucharist" that the Catholic Church will observe from October 2004 to October 2005.

At the Mass he presided over [on that day] in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pope explained that the Year of the Eucharist will begin with the International Eucharistic Congress, Oct. 10-17, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The year "will end with the next ordinary assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will be held in the Vatican from October 2-29, 2005, and whose theme will be 'The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church,'" the Holy Father added.

"Christ, 'the living bread which came down from heaven,' is the only one who can satisfy man's hunger at all times and in all parts of the earth," he said.

In the Eucharist, "Christ gives His Body and Blood for the life of humanity. And all those who nourish themselves worthily at His table, become living instruments of His presence of love, mercy, and peace," the Pope explained.

On June 13, before praying the Angelus, John Paul II explained that he convoked the "Year of the Eucharist" because the program he presented to the Church at the start of the millennium is based on "starting afresh from Christ."

"The Eucharist is at the center of the life of the Church. In it, Christ offers Himself to the Father

for us, making us participants of His sacrifice itself, and He gives Himself to us as bread of life for our journey on the paths of the world," the Pontiff said from the window of his study overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Addressing a crowd of thousands, the Holy Father said that this Year of the Eucharist seeks to "make every community grow in faith and love toward the mystery of the Body and Blood of the Lord."

— Compiled from news June 10 and 13, *Zenit.org*

The Friends of Mercy Club is a group of friends of the Marians who want to honor God's mercy in a special way.

- They help support the Marians' works of mercy, and receive regular news about the Divine Mercy message;
- Every day the intentions of members are included in our 3 o'clock prayers at the Marian Helpers Center and in the Chaplet at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy; and
- Members pledge a bimonthly gift and receive the Club newsletter published by the Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. 1-800-462-7426. e-mail: friendsofmercy@marian.org