



# Friends of Mercy

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

*Marian outreach ministry delivers lessons about Mercy Sunday.*

## Divine Mercy in Hawaii

To the swaying of the palms in the warm tropical breezes perfumed by gardenia and plumeria, hymns rose in chorus to praise the Creator of earthly and heavenly paradises. Hearts touched and illuminated by the rays of Divine Mercy united to worship and thank God for the limitless graces of Divine Mercy Sunday.

In April, Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) Cenacle Facilitator Gretchen Robens traveled to Hawaii for a Divine Mercy Sunday celebration to address a convocation from all over the Islands. She also encouraged new groups of Eucharistic Apostles during a series of workshops for the facilitators in both Honolulu and Kawaii.

"I was amazed at the fervor of the people and how rapidly the message of mercy is spreading among the islands," says Gretchen. "The Divine Mercy Sunday celebration was especially beautiful, with joyful hymns, brilliant flowers, and colorful Island clothing."

On the Friday before the great Feast of Divine Mercy, Gretchen was the guest speaker for an evening Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish in beautiful downtown Honolulu. "Our family of faith gathered from all over the Islands to



Divine Mercy leaders from churches in the Honolulu area welcomed Gretchen Robens (inset) of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. She led a training seminar for them before Mercy Sunday.



begin a preparatory conference," she said. "On Saturday we held an all-day seminar on the message of mercy. The main thrust was to assist and train those contemplating starting groups across the islands."

Rose Balayan started the first cenacle, and months prior had a visiting Filipino priest bless the cenacle group and "send off" the Eucharistic Apostles to bring the message of mercy to those who are in need of God's healing. Since then, numerous other parishes have gotten involved. "People flew in from the other islands," Gretchen reports, "and I also flew to Kawaii for a training session for EADM groups there as well. It was all quite overwhelming!"

The big celebration of the Feast Day at Immaculate Conception Church in Ewa, Hawaii, was the highlight of the conference, attended by the faithful from Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kawaii, and Molokai.

Rose held the first EADM formation meeting last August, and about 20 people from different parishes attended. After hearing the presentation and viewing the video *I am a Voice Crying for Mercy*, the people were convinced that this was a prayer community that they wanted to join.

"Many members were familiar with the Divine Mercy message," says Gretchen. "They all knew about the Chaplet and the Feast of Divine Mercy. But many did not know that

Divine Mercy is a way of life. Aside from weekly prayers, study of Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Diary of St. Faustina*, they all felt that being involved in corporal and spiritual works of mercy will help them live out the baptismal promise to proclaim the love of God and become vessels of His Mercy. Everybody agreed that fellowship is an important element of community growth and interaction. The group also decided to have prayers and study meetings every Saturday and to dedicate the first Saturday of each month for potluck dinner fellowship. Soon after, a leader of a Divine Mercy prayer and study group at the Blessed Sacrament parish in Downtown Honolulu decided to join and adopt the EADM cenacle format."

Rose hopes to help establish many EADM cenacles throughout the Hawaiian Islands. She realizes that this can only be done with humility and submission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Her prayer is that the Hawaiian members always live the words, "Jesus, I trust in You!" □

To learn more about EADM, visit online at [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org) or call toll free 1-877-380-0727.



### Prayer Intention for the 3 o'clock Chaplet

Please join in praying for all our fellow Club Members and their very special intentions.

*DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY  
ON EDEN HILL  
PHOTOS BY JOHN FOSTER*



**Pictured from top:**

- ◆ Members of the Friends of Mercy Club and other special guests of Father Joseph, MIC, gather at the Recreation Center on Eden Hill.
- ◆ Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, expresses his gratitude to club members and donors.
- ◆ Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, chats with longtime club member Josephine Moser of Pleasant Valley, NY.
- ◆ Br. Matt Lamoureux, MIC, greets the Moore family from Newtown, CT.



## Members Meet

**On Mercy Sunday, April 18, 2004, members of the Friends of Mercy Club shared special time meeting with one another and the Marians during a visit on Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA.**

**To everyone who could not attend, you were with us in spirit.**



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# Members Speak

“At the Mass today (Mercy Sunday) and through all of the prayers — you could just feel the power of the Holy Spirit. It was electrifying. ... I’ve been a member of the Friends of Mercy Club for several years, but until today, I never felt part of a group. Today, I felt the connection.”

E.B., Canada

“Meeting Fr. Joseph today was like meeting an old friend. With all of the letters he has sent over the years, I feel like I’ve known him for most of my life.”

T.D., CT

“We have been on Eden Hill many times, especially on Divine Mercy Sunday. On our first visit we tried to stay at the Red Lion Inn, but there was no room at the Inn — which sounded familiar. That’s when we learned to make early reservations. Our daily prayers include the Rosary and the Chaplet, so it only made sense to be a part of the Friends of Mercy.”

L.H., MA

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Jesus said to St. Faustina, “I demand deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere.”

*Diary of St. Faustina, 742*

## 2004 DEEDS OF MERCY Contest

*Marian Helper* magazine is looking to highlight outstanding examples of **Deeds of Mercy**.

Know someone who is making a difference — big or small — in the lives of others?

***Let us know!***

Finalists will be featured in *Marian Helper* magazine.

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

- Accommodations at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy
- Lunch with Fr. Joseph, MIC
- A personal tour of the National Shrine by the Shrine Rector.

**Runners-up** will receive a copy of the *Diary of St. Faustina* and the booklet *I Demand Deeds of Mercy* by Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB.

Submit your “Deeds of Mercy” nominees by e-mail to [deedsofmercy@marian.org](mailto:deedsofmercy@marian.org) or write to: Deeds of Mercy, Editorial Dept., Marian Helpers Center, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263.

Entries must be received  
by Oct. 15, 2004.

When viewing "The Passion of the Christ" movie, it appears that Mel Gibson might have taken a page or two out of the Diary of St. Faustina. Beginning with the scene from the Garden, the saint took comfort in what Our Lord endured and identified her suffering with His. Jesus was alone, something we don't often dwell on very long.

We may not be called to experience this degree of suffering. Nevertheless, Our Lord and St.

Faustina give an example for those who do face their own agony and indeed are alone. Many feel that no one cares and in spite of having friends near at hand, who may be sleeping or unaware just like the apostles, the awareness of being abandoned is deeply painful. Our Lord is conveying that He can relate to those moments when we are alone, whether on a sick bed or in a crowd. He can also relate to those who lack freedom and are in actual prisons or are imprisoned within their own minds. Our Lord may even be trying to relate to those in a loveless marriage, who in spite of all material comforts, are still very much alone. It eventually becomes obvious that He alone can fill that certain void.

I am alone, all alone. My mind has become so dimmed. ... I spent the whole night with Jesus in Gethsemane. From my breast there escaped one continuous moan. A natural dying will be much easier, because then one is in agony and will die; while here, one is in agony, but cannot die. ... But the darkness does not recede, and my spirit plunges into even greater agony.

Diary, 1558

**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

Reflections on the Diary of St. Faustina:

# The PASSION

A thematic series  
by Br. Leonard Konopka, MIC

After the scourging, the torturers took the Lord and stripped Him of His own garment, which had already adhered to the wounds; as they took it off, His wounds reopened; then they threw a dirty and tattered scarlet cloak over the fresh wounds of the Lord. ... Some spat in His face, while others took the reed and struck Him on the head. ... Jesus bore all this with meekness. ... They tried to outdo each other in insulting the Lord. I reflected: Where does such malice in man come from? It is caused by sin. Love and sin have met.

Diary, 408

O, my Jesus, my only hope, thank You for the book which You have opened before my soul's eyes. That book is Your Passion which You underwent for love of me. It is from this book that I have learned how to love God and souls. In this book there are found for us inexhaustible treasures. O Jesus, how few souls understand You in Your martyrdom of love! Oh, how great is the fire of purest love which burns in Your Most Sacred Heart!

Diary, 304

I saw the Lord Jesus upon the cross. From His hands, feet and side, the Most Sacred Blood was flowing. After some time, Jesus said to me: **All this is for the salvation of souls.** ... I answered, "Jesus, when I look at Your suffering, I see that I am doing next to nothing for the salvation of souls." And the Lord said to me, **Know, My daughter, that your silent day-to-day martyrdom in complete submission to My will ushers many souls into heaven. And when it seems to you that your suffering exceeds your strength, contemplate My wounds, and you will rise above human scorn and judgment. Meditation on My Passion will help you rise above all things.**

Diary, 1184

When the confessor started talking to me, I did not understand a single word. Then I saw Jesus Crucified and He said to me, **It is in My Passion that you must seek light and strength.** ... I understood that what I was suffering was nothing compared to the Savior's Passion, and that even the smallest imperfection was the cause of this terrible suffering.

Diary, 654

Many more references in the Diary convey Our Lord's tremendous message that we are all His children, and His awesome love is distributed to each one of us individually. His Passion, Death, and Resurrection seen in film illustrate what was also in the heart, mind, and soul of St. Faustina. He only asks that we reciprocate His love and constantly repeat: *Jesus, I trust in You!*

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.

