



# DIVINE MERCY

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01262 ~ 413-298-3931

Spring 2004

## Dear Brothers And Sisters In Christ

### A Message From The Shrine Rector



Fr. David Lord, M.I.C.

The privileged season of Lent is here, and the voice of the "Baptist" is heard once again crying out, "Repent, the Lord is near." Our acts of

Lenten repentance and mortification cause the depths of mercy in the tender Heart of the Lord to be stirred and to overflow upon us, washing clean the wounds caused by our sins.

The rays of His Divine Mercy touch us like gentle aloe to bring healing and peace. We live in such a broken and hurting world; we are broken and hurting people. What we all need is the Lord's tender touch! His touch nudges us from the dark midnight of despair to the sunlit morning of hope.

This is the reason our ancestors sang glad "hosannas" to the Son of David when he rode among them on that glorious Palm Sunday long ago. Finally, the long awaited "Hope of the Nations" had appeared and touched His people, calling them across the threshold of hope to a new day.

As Easter and Mercy Sunday draw near, I encourage you to take the opportunity this Lent to repent. When you do that, just like our young Father Donald did (whose story you will find inside), you will behold the wonders God will then do in your life.

Finally, thank you for your support and interest in our ministry of mercy to pilgrims who come to the National Shrine. Please consider organizing a group to come on pilgrimage to the Shrine for Mercy Sunday, April 18, when the floodgates of God's mercy are wide open.

In Jesus and Mary,  
Fr. David Lord, M.I.C.,  
Rector, The National Shrine  
of The Divine Mercy



A Publication of  
the Marianists of  
the Immaculate  
Conception



I do not want to punish aching mankind,  
but I desire to heal it, pressing it  
to My Merciful Heart.

Diary 1588



Then...



**R**epentance. What is it? What can I, a priest for less than a year, tell you about it? More than you might think.

Consider that as a young man, I partied a lot, using drugs and alcohol. I was in sinful relationships with many girls, was deported from the country of Japan, and was institutionalized in two different rehabilitation centers. I even spent a night in jail in Louisiana. So, it's obvious that at some point before my conversion to Catholicism, and certainly before my ordination to the priesthood, I had to do some serious repenting!

Yes, you read it right. To be honest, all the above is but a glimpse of my life before Christ. Born into a non-Christian and very worldly family, it's somewhat understandable why I would lead such a life of grave sin. I simply didn't know right from wrong. Before the age of twenty, I never even knew there was such a thing as sin!

Sure, I had been baptized at age ten into the Episcopal Church at the request of my stepfather. But, like many families, we never prayed, went to Church, or talked about God. Thus, most of my young life was miserable because I lived in sin.

## Repent, And Believe In The Gospel!

By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, Assistant Shrine Rector



Fr. Donald prostrate during the Litany of Saints at his ordination to the priesthood.

No one ever told me that the consequences of our actions either lead us to happiness or to misery.

Yet, regardless of the fact that my early years were not spent in Christian surroundings, it was I who chose to do the things I did. No one

forced me. I did them of my own free will.

Deep down inside, I always knew there was something incomplete in my life — a reason for why I was so unhappy and miserable. But I never dreamed that my unhappiness was because I did not acknowledge my sins, repent of them, and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

So, when my family converted to Catholicism in 1988, I did not know what to make of it. At the time, it seemed odd to me that they would turn religious — the very people who had trained me in the ways of the world! But it didn't take long to realize that they had changed. They

And now...



seemed to be really happy.

Of course, being the knucklehead that I was, I never put two-and-two together. That my parents were changed because they had repented of their sins and entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ never even crossed my mind. It was foreign to my worldly way of thinking. Then it happened to me!

One night, in 1992, I read a book about the Virgin Mary's reported appearances in Medjugorje. The contents of that book were like a revelation to me. God? Sin? Conversion? To put it mildly, I was jolted out of my selfish little existence. All I thought I knew about life was radically challenged by the messages of this mysterious Lady. She even said that God was my Father and that He had sent His only Son to die for me on the Cross!

Needless to say, in the days ahead I cried my eyes out, repenting of all the sinful things I had done in my life. I came to know there was right and wrong, light and darkness. Those days of turning (repenting) from a life of sin have left a deep impact on the rest of my life, even now as a newly ordained priest.

To repent is to turn from sin and return to God. We are all weak and in need of God's mercy. All of us have to keep constant vigil over our actions. We will never be happy until we fully surrender to Jesus Christ and His plan for our lives. He knows we are weak. If we fall, He gives us the opportunity to repent and receive His mercy by going to Confession. To be truly happy all we have to do is: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel!" (Mk. 1:15).



**DIVINE MERCY**  
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# Divine Mercy Sunday

## WHY MERCY SUNDAY?

**When is Divine Mercy Sunday being celebrated? April, 18, 2004**

**Why celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday?**  
 Mercy Sunday brings us Our Lord's promise of an "ocean of graces" for souls, "especially for poor sinners." And each of us, as a sinner, sorely needs these graces of the Risen Christ to wash away the misery of our sins.

**What graces can I receive on that day?**



On that day the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.

**Where is Divine Mercy Sunday celebrated?**

Divine Mercy Sunday is now the title of the Second Sunday of the Easter season. It was named by Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Maria Faustina on April 30, 2000, and then officially decreed by the Vatican.

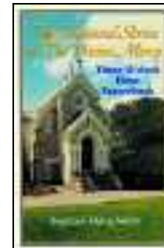
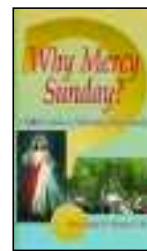
**Divine Mercy Services**

Visit [www.marian.org](http://www.marian.org) and under "Divine Mercy Weekend 2004," click on "search for a celebration," to find a church near you hosting festivities.

My Mercy is so great, that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout eternity. The soul that will go to Confession [beforehand] and receive Holy Communion [on that day] shall obtain compete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

Words expressed by Jesus in the Diary, paragraph 699.

## YOUR DIVINE MERCY PACK



Please help my brother Marians and me with the operational costs associated with Divine Mercy Sunday. With your gift of \$25.00 I will be pleased to send you a special Divine Mercy Pack which includes these books. Your generous support will be remembered in our daily prayers. Sincerely, Fr. Dave, Rector

## The SHRINE'S SPRING SCHEDULE



*Return of the Prodigal Son, stained glass window in Shrine.*

For up-to-date information, contact us at [shrine@marian.org](mailto:shrine@marian.org) or at (413) 298-3931.

### Mass Schedule

#### Holy Mass

Monday-Friday 7:15am and 2pm  
Saturdays & Holidays 8am and 2pm  
2pm Sat. Mass does NOT fulfill Sunday's Obligation  
Sundays 10:30am and 2pm

**Rosary For Life** ~ Daily 1:30pm

**Chaplet of The Divine Mercy** ~ Daily 3pm

**Confessions** ~ Daily 1-2pm and 3:15-4:30pm or by appointment.

### Weekly Events

#### Charismatic Prayer Meeting

Thursdays at 7pm, followed by Holy Mass with music by Heartsong.

### Monthly Events

#### Charismatic Healing Mass

The Mother of Divine Mercy Prayer Group hosts this healing Mass on the last Thursday of every month at 7pm. Music is provided by Heartsong, whose CD's and tapes are available at The Shrine Gift Shop.

#### Evenings with The Rector

Fr. David Lord, M.I.C., and special guest speakers are featured. TBA.

#### First Saturday presentations on The Blessed Mother

Every first Saturday, 1-1:30pm in the Shrine.

#### Divine Mercy Novena Presentations

April 9 through April 17, 7pm

#### Divine Mercy Sunday

Vigil Mass (April 17th) 4pm, Field Altar  
Holy Mass (April 18th) 1pm, Field Altar  
Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, 3pm

*Please call for a more detailed schedule of events for Divine Mercy Sunday.*



## Spiritual Renewal Opportunities

Whether for a day or an extended stay, you, your church, or small group are invited to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy for a time of retreat. Simple, overnight accommodations are available on a limited basis.

For information and registration call the office, which is open 9 am to 5 pm, at 413-298-3931 or email us at [shrine@marian.org](mailto:shrine@marian.org).



## What You've Done

Thank you for being a partner in ministry with the Marians at the National Shrine. Provided is a list of some of the work we've done together:

**Sacred Heart Project** ~ This popular statue was restored and placed in a beautifully renovated niche.

**St. Philomena Statue** ~ A new outdoor shrine on the grounds has been created in honor of this powerful saint.

**Exterior Shrine lighting** has been added for pilgrims.

**Shrine Newsletter** ~ Because of the generosity of benefactors the Shrine is finally communicating with its friends on a regular basis!

## Register For Mercy Sunday

Register your bus group by calling 413-298-1118 or e-mail us at [pilgrims@marian.org](mailto:pilgrims@marian.org).

## Be A Mercy Sunday Volunteer!

To register yourself and/or group to volunteer, please call 413-298-3931 or e-mail us at [mercy.sunday@marian.org](mailto:mercy.sunday@marian.org).

## We Need Your Help

Please prayerfully consider supporting my brother Marians and I with these various projects:

*Confessional sound improvements* for the hearing impaired — cost \$3,500.

Sponsoring summer interns (college and seminary students) for summer ministry — \$5,500.

*Utilization of natural candles* in the Shrine Sanctuary — annual cost \$3,000.

*Shrine chapel supplies* (incense, hosts, altar cloths) — cost \$2,300.

Please use the enclosed envelope and leave us a note that you are helping us with these projects. Thank you!