

*“Mercy is love that seeks to lessen the misery of others”
— Bryan Thatcher, MD*



By Bryan Thatcher, MD

The Scripture verse, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos 4:6), seems to be coming to fulfillment in these times, and I feel compelled to try to bring truth, hope, and a loving message to many. And so, this ministry is taking a new direction.

Over the last several months, I have been laying groundwork to begin video recordings and podcasts to teach and reinforce the beauty of our faith, helping people to understand key issues today and make decisions based on truth. I believe that all the speaking I have done on the Eucharist and Divine Mercy at conferences and in my travels around the world was a preparation for me to spread truth by using the technology available today.

Some of the podcasts will address various aspects of Divine Mercy, but the majority will feature special guests knowledgeable in their field. Here are a few I am hoping to speak to:

- **Dr. Alveda King**, niece of the late Martin Luther King Jr., regarding pro-life issues and how abortion has severely impacted and wounded those involved, especially the African American community.
- **Dr. Castanon Gomez**, a Bolivian scientist and former atheist

who studied the Eucharistic miracle of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and had a profound conversion.

- **Dr. George Delgado** from San Diego who has done work on reversing the “morning after” abortion pill and has great stories to share.

“Hope, Healing, and Mercy.”

The series will be called “Hope, Healing, and Mercy.” Both the videos and the podcasts (audio) will be at DrBryanThatcher.com. If you want to view videos, you also can go to YouTube.com and type in my name or “Hope, Healing, and Mercy.” Each show will run about an hour. If you have any trouble finding the shows, please call 1-877-380-0727.

I am asking for your help! I need to get as many people as I can to visit and “like” the material to improve their visibility when people are searching for videos and podcasts. I am praying that cenacle members register (which is free) and tell their family members to register.

If you would like to donate to this new ministry, please visit marian.org/eadm or call 1-800-462-7426.

- **Dale Recinella**, a former attorney and friend of mine who had a near-death experience in which Jesus expressed disappointment in his lifestyle. He is now a chaplain for death row inmates here in Florida.
- **Immaculee Ilibigaza**, a Rwandan genocide survivor who hid in her neighbor’s bathroom for several months to survive the Hutu killings.
- **The monks in France** working on the canonization process of Dr. Jerome Lejeune, the physician who discovered trisomy 21 as the cause of Down’s Syndrome and warned the medical community

about using that knowledge as a reason to procure abortions.

The list goes on and on. If you would like to recommend someone for the shows, please call me at 1-877-380-0727.

With your help, we are planning to purchase quality equipment to make the shows as professional as possible. I hope you will enjoy this new project. I’m excited to share this great group of speakers, who have a diversity of backgrounds, with you.



BAY VILLAGE, OHIO

Ann Marie Farr wrote and told us:

We have been blessed to partake in the Divine Mercy Cenacle group at St. Raphael Parish in Bay Village, Ohio. We have been in existence for over 4 years, and our group currently has 17 active members ranging from early 40s to early 80s in age. We have another 10 people who receive weekly emails and have been involved in the past. We are tremendously blessed because another cenacle group is currently starting in the evening at our parish, so we have one during the day and one at night.

There are no words that can express the awe and gratitude we have for having received the grace to answer the call to be part of this cenacle of faith. Each individual has been guided to our small community through prayer, entering in God's time. What has allowed our group to flourish so amazingly is our commitment to the Trinity, each other, trust in absolute confidentiality, and a burning desire to pray for much needed mercy in our own lives and the whole world.

Faustina has been our guide through whom we learn how to live mercy and bring it to others. Each week we break open the Word, study the *Catechism*, and read the *Diary*. We answer the questions provided, sometimes adding our own as they pertain to the week's theme. We have learned that each week doesn't have to be completed in one session. As our love has expanded, so has our desire to share experiences of every aspect of our lives as they relate to the theme. Patience, acceptance of personal limitations, obedience, and humility are virtues we aspire to gain through perseverance in prayer and study of the formation manual.

One of the works of mercy has been taking responsibility for leading others in gathering for teaching and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the octave of Easter, culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday. We began by praying the Chaplet daily, but now have expanded our offerings to include prayers from St. Faustina's *Diary* and teaching on her life and the life of St. John Paul II. During Lent, our group hands out 2-inch by 3-inch Divine Mercy prayer cards to everyone after one of the weekend Masses.

One of the things we have been working on for over a year is formatting the Divine Mercy Image and Chaplet prayers for distribution into the area nursing homes that our parish serves. Our desire is to provide nursing home residents with the Chaplet and Image to spread the message of Divine Mercy and have it on something durable that can withstand liquid and/or food getting on it.

To lessen the suffering of others during the Christmas season, we met to sign Christmas cards to bring to a nearby Catholic center where the homeless go to get warmth and a meal. Our group gathered and invited other parish ministry members to join us. We signed 273 cards that morning, and each card had a Divine Mercy 2-inch by 3-inch prayer card placed in it. Every person present signed each card. If a member couldn't attend, she prayed during that time. It was a blessing for us to be part of the two-way street of mercy. In order to accomplish our task, we collected religious Christmas cards at the end of the Christmas season last year to prepare for the signing at the end of this year. The Holy Spirit guides all things.

Moreover, our cenacle group attended the "Love and Mercy: Faustina" movie in October. It was great to be in community outside of our regular meetings. Our tickets were \$10 each, and they were primarily paid through a gift card previously received by one of our members. Each person in attendance paid the tick-

et and processing fee. The money collected was then utilized for having Masses celebrated for priests. Then an extraordinary thing happened. Instead of 17 total Masses, our members opted to sacrifice more money, and we ended up with a total of 56 Masses to be celebrated! God multiplies love in amazing ways!

The Holy Spirit is working and guiding us along the narrow path. Most recently, our group provided prayer cards of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with rays emanating from His Heart to the kids receiving First Reconciliation. The parents were offered different prayer cards: Mary, as the monstrance of Jesus, with golden rays throughout her whole being, further radiating outside of her. It was our privilege to spend time in Adoration throughout the day of Reconciliation praying for the kids and their families.

As we continue our journey in faith, we are very grateful to be able to meet each week in a community. When we learn of a funeral Mass being celebrated the day of our meeting, we pray the Rosary and Chaplet prior to the funeral. Our goal of self-giving love is shared with everyone through word, deed, and prayer. We pray for ourselves and the whole world to trust in Jesus and His never-ending love and mercy. And, of course, we pray through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who always leads us to the pierced side of Jesus to receive the Blood and Water He gave as a pure gift of love to each one of us. We thank God for the blessings to come this year and pray for all of you in your own journey back to Heaven.



DENNISON, OHIO

Barbara Ross wrote and told us:

Our Divine Mercy cenacle held its first formal meeting on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, here at Immaculate Conception Parish in Dennison, Ohio. We are a parish in a small town that is composed of approximately 450 families. We are so excited! We believe this cenacle is the fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some members of the cenacle are relatives and friends who started communicating during the pandemic via text messages, which were shared with 12 to 20 people. We would share beautiful reflections we had read that day, uplifting messages, saints of the day, prayer requests, as well as our hopes and fears. We were all searching for a deeper relationship with God. Many of these messages were from the Divine Mercy Daily reflections that are emailed from the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Other members were also enriching their spiritual lives by completing the consecration in the book *33 Days to Greater Glory: A Total Consecration to the Father through Jesus* by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

When approached about beginning a cenacle of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy at our parish, our young assistant priest, Fr. Tom Gardner, was enthusiastic and obtained permission from our pastor. During a Zoom meeting, I shared all of the information in the introductory envelope with Fr. Tom. We followed the format in the *Becoming a Eucharistic Apostle* booklet for starting a cenacle.

Approximately 12 people attended the informational meeting in the cafeteria. It was a mixture of men and women, from their 30s to over 80 years of age. These folks come from diverse backgrounds, and all are yearning to learn about the mercy of God. An additional three or four people were attempting to enter the meeting through Zoom. However, we were so excited about the in-person turnout that we forgot about letting the parishioners in on Zoom!

The EADM office asks that each cenacle visit TheDivineMercy.org/eadm to make sure your cenacle is registered and that the information is correct. If it is not, please call us toll free at 1-877-380-0727 or email us at Ministry@sprynet.com

However, later in the week, we connected with these folks. We are living proof that one can begin a cenacle without being perfect.

For the informational meeting, we followed the suggestions given in the booklet. We showed the video "I Am a Voice Crying for Mercy." As Fr. Tom commented, that video appears to have been made after 9/11, but we could easily insert "after COVID-19." The Divine Mercy message is truly needed in our hurting world today! Our group meets Mondays at 8:30 p.m. after Eucharistic Adoration. We are excited to see what God has in store for us, to promote Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, to pray for the sick and dying, and to perform works of mercy. Please pray for us!



ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

Carol Troy wrote and told us:

Our second cenacle was formed at Mass on June 23, 2018. Inductees to this group include Brian Cheshire, Dana Hill, Anna Huebel, Laura LeBlanc, Steve Scott, Mary Helen Sini, Mary Ann Villano, and Georgia Ann Williams. Most of these Apostles have been diligent in their studies and have now completed formation manuals two and three and will continue in an advanced study group with our original cenacle to discuss a variety of books by the Marian Fathers, including *Purest of All Lilies* and *Consecration to St. Joseph* by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and more.

Our third cenacle was formed at Mass on Aug. 4, 2019, in a lovely celebration led by Msrg. Louis Pavlicek. Members of this group include Eva Almanza, Michelle Burr, Lynnette Davis, Maria "Angie" De La Rosa, Marguerite "Marge" Hanna, Charlotte Lacombe, Lily Metcalfe, and Theresa Sismilich.

On Sunday, June 28, 2020, we inducted 10 into our Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy Cenacle. Congratulations to the following new inductees: Fabian Alvarado, Mary T. Carter, Maria "Tonia" Gentry, Clark Johnson, Jeanne Karch, Catherine Lee, Cameron Meeker, Stephen Todd, Earnest Valle, and Genoveva Zamarron. We appreciate our pastor Fr. Dean Wilhelm's support and leadership through the induction ceremony at the Sunday evening Mass.

Most of our first cenacle group has completed all three formation manuals together as a group, and the study of *Mary: Who She Is and Why She Matters* by Dr. Robert Stackpole was completed with group discussions for the bulk of the chapters and then individual study for the final chapters. Over the years this group has seen a couple of members move out of state, and we're so pleased that we've been reunited with them through the use of Zoom.

Inspired by the success of gathering via Zoom, we started a fifth cenacle on Monday, Aug. 3, delving into the lessons of formation manual number one using the Zoom platform.

We held our 2020 Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday Holy

Hour via Zoom. With 15 to 20 attending most nights of the Novena and 30 joining us for the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, we were encouraged to continue our prayers together using that platform. Many feel the need to join together to pray for an end to the pandemic and all the turmoil and unrest across our nation and the whole world. As such, we have Zoom prayer sessions on three to four evenings during the week.

The photo above is one of our cenacles using Zoom. The members enjoy it, and I encourage others to try it.



SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Pedro Tapia wrote and told us:

The Divine Mercy Cenacle here in Santiago, Dominican Republic, has been in existence for about two years. It was introduced and proposed by two of our Corpus Christi Church members, Alexandra Querin and myself. At one of the Sunday Masses at that time, we invited everyone to a meeting with the intention to begin this interesting way to reunite people, support them spiritually, and guide them to do works of mercy.

We have such a great, wonderful, and spiritually supportive group. All are grateful for our meetings. We all feel like an extraordinarily strong brotherhood, studying the Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the writings of St. Faustina. The meetings keep our heart yearning for more as we strive to do God's will.

As humble believers, we would like to continue praying, following the guide books from the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. We know it will help us strengthen our faith.

We celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy, and on that day, we also have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

We had stopped the meetings since the pandemic, although now we are planning to continue them virtually.

Lastly, I would like to share a testimony of one of our members, Maryeling Arzeno:

My experience in this group of the Divine Mercy Cenacle has been a great blessing. My parents pray the Chaplet together with me every day at 3 p.m., and the Lord granted me a great miracle during this pandemic. My parents were infected with COVID-19 without their knowing it. Thanks be to God and to my faith, I persevered in prayer, and my parents did not feel any symptoms. At the beginning of this pandemic, that was one of my great fears, and now I really see the strength of prayer and faith in God. Even though many trials come, the Lord will never allow us to fall. In times of danger, He is always there. Faith moves mountains and the one who walks with God will never fail.



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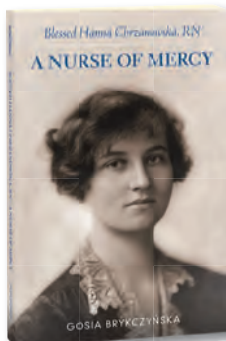


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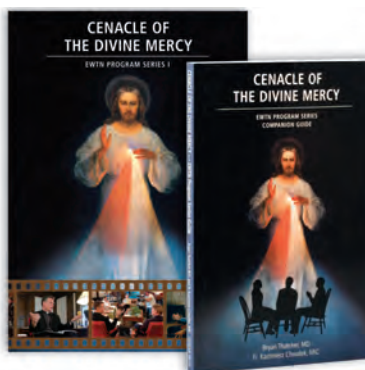
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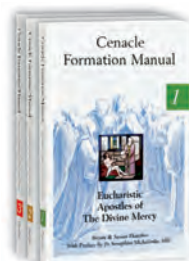


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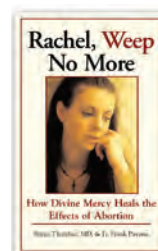


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By Pat Struempfler

I am writing about an event that happened to my mother, Ingrid, seven years ago. We both feel it is time to share her story of Divine Mercy with others. The world is so confused now and needs hope. Jesus is the cause of our hope!

My mom was driving home from work when she came upon a car stalled in the road. She got out of her Toyota Tacoma to see if she could help. She was nearly 70 years old at the time. A gentleman also got out of his vehicle to offer assistance. They tried to help, but traffic was backing up. The two were walking back to their vehicles when my mom was hit by an oncoming vehicle. The impact propelled her up in the air, and she landed behind her truck.

At that point, she remembers hearing people screaming and shouting, "She's dead, she's dead!" As she lay on the ground, she kept repeating over and over the words, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

Later that evening, after being transported to a nearby hospital, mom told me that as she was reciting the



words, she saw Jesus just as He is in the Image. He had the rays emanating from His pierced Heart, and He seemed real and alive!

Since her injuries were more severe than the local hospital could handle, she was driven by ambulance to another hospital 90 minutes away. What made

the ride even worse was the fact that there were severe thunderstorms and it was raining heavily. Mom was admitted to the intensive care unit, and they stabilized her. When I saw her later, she told me her story of seeing Jesus, and in a calm voice she said that she was going to be fine.

The next day the doctor came in and they moved her to a regular room since she had no internal injuries. No surgery would be needed, as her broken pelvis would heal on its own. We both cried with relief! It had seemed so grim just a few hours earlier.

Mom was very bruised where she was hit, and her leg still causes her problems. But overall, she is doing well.

We are just simple people striving to be better and to trust in Jesus.

We are so thankful for all the blessings given. As a result of the accident, we have a greater realization of the fragility of life and the great mercy of God, and we want to share it with everyone!

May we all remember the words and live them daily: "Jesus, I trust in You!"

Container Shipped to Peru

In early July, a 40-foot container was loaded and shipped to the port of Callao, Peru, and then distributed to several areas in Peru. The pandemic made things more difficult, but all volunteers wore masks, and we were able to get it done. The contents included more than 250 boxes of medical supplies and religious items, numerous hospital beds, cardiac monitors, pediatric hospital beds, and more.



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If your cenacle would like to have Dr. Thatcher speak at your parish, call the EADM office at 1-877-380-0727.



WANT TO START A CENACLE? Call the EADM office toll free at 1-877-380-0727, and we'll send you a free informational packet with a DVD on the ministry.