



RAYS OF MERCIFUL LOVE

Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy Newsletter

Winter 2009

www.thedivinemercy.org

A Story of God's Mercy Revealed

by Kathleen M. Wabick

“Mercy is Love that seeks to lessen the misery of others”

My mother's death had a profound influence on me, and her visions of heaven at the time of her death changed my life forever. For years I asked God why He chose my mother. Why was she blessed to share with us a glimpse of heaven? I began to seek God for answers.

What I discovered is that my mother was simply called upon to be an instrument for God's greater glory. She was a mere vessel, a humble person who God utilized at the time of her death, to draw aside the veil of heaven. This unveiling would be the beginning of a long journey for me. It opened my eyes to see God in His mercy and love.

How is it possible that the loss of a parent could bring about new beginnings in one's own faith and a new life centered in Christ? How could God use a simple, ordinary woman at the time of her passing to manifest His great mercy? Why, before she spoke of her visions, had she told us to get paper and a pen and write it all down? These are some of the questions I have pondered in my heart in the years following my mother's death.

God *can* and *will* use us in ways we never thought were possible because He is so merciful. We have to be open to hear Him speak. Our hearts should be ready, waiting for Him to enter, and in our readiness, we should be completely prepared to answer Him with, “Yes, Lord, Thy will be done!”

My mother's astounding visions of heaven at the time of her death had a major impact on my life. They were a seed God had planted that would take many years of searching, deep within my soul, before they were cultivated. Once enriched, it gave me a greater appreciation for my Catholic faith. I grew more and more in love with Jesus truly present in the Eucharist, really yearning to receive Him often into my heart. I discovered that I, like many, was a sinner who needed to be healed by the One True Healer. Yes, I went to Sunday Mass, but I would soon realize that I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; the One who died on the cross for me, the One who was patiently waiting to reveal His Divine Love.

I can still vividly remember that cold October day in 1998 as if it were yesterday, the day I made a distraught phone call to my friend, telling her of my unwillingness to accept my mother's



grave illness. I was not ready to let go of the woman who gave me life, who nurtured me and cared for me. I was simply not ready, and I knew it. Can we ever be ready to witness the death of a parent or loved one? Even if we prayed and asked God for the grace to get through this most difficult time in our life, could we ever really be ready?

My friend knew of a treasure that would bring many graces to my dying mother and she was about to share with me a remarkable devotion, one that would explode into a great mystery. This incomprehensible mystery, called the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, became for me a devotion that I came to know and love with all the fervor deep within my heart and with the utmost passion in my soul.

Moreover, for me, it became a way of life.

As I sat at my mother's bedside, I held in my hands a new rosary I had just purchased the week before. She told me how much she admired it and relished the fact that I was showing an interest in praying the Rosary, this powerful devotion she had long treasured. Needless to say, I never thought one week later I would be praying on that same rosary, imploring God's mercy for my mother through the powerful prayer of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

My mother's death was drawing near, and I knew the time was approaching when I would have to say my final good-bye. All the years of tending to her needs would soon come to a complete halt. How would I accept this drastic change in my life? What would arise from this simple yet extremely powerful prayer would bring about many changes in my life, give me a new restored faith in God, and bring me closer to Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

I sat silently, looking at my mother lying there so peacefully. I decided to open the devotional booklet to the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, given to me by a friend. Knowing very little about this prayer, I reached for my rosary and began to follow the prayers that Jesus gave to St. Faustina Kowalska so many years ago. For me, this is where it all began ... the beginning of my journey towards Jesus.

It was the next day after I prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at my mother's bedside that she began to lapse into a semi-comatose state. She remained in this state for almost 12

hours. Then, to our amazement, the next day at 12 a.m., she opened her eyes and asked us to sit her up in bed. We honored her wishes. She requested that we get a paper and a pen.

"Mom, you can hardly sit up in bed. I don't think you will be able to write," I replied.

"I am not going to write, one of you will. Write down everything that I say," she said.

We looked at each other in astonishment. *Write everything down ...* is she actually going to begin to speak to us? How is this possible?

From this point on, my mother slowly revealed her visions of heaven. She told us that Jesus and Mary were in the room with us. She saw a beautiful gateway that she would be passing through, and above this gate was the word "*Laude*," meaning glory and praise. She spelled it and pronounced it correctly even though she only acquired an eighth-grade education.

Through this gateway, my mother told us that many souls were praising God, although they were praising Him in a language she could not understand. She heard heavenly chanting along with beautiful angelic music. She also told us she would be wearing a long white robe as soon as she passed through this heavenly gate.

For three long hours, my mother shared her visions of heaven with us and then peacefully passed on to be with our merciful Jesus.

After her death, I discovered that my journey in faith is an opportunity for me to one day be united with God forever in eternity. Sometimes I will fall, but with God as my strength, I will pick myself up and continue to walk with Him. Consequently, the road can become rough and difficult to travel; the crosses we carry can become heavy. It is in times like these that God has shown me that I am nothing without Him.

Everything my mother was able to tell us points to a gracious God who, out of complete love for us, gives us only what is beneficial to our soul. He gives us the gift of His Divine Mercy. Our omnipotent God will remove the darkness and provide us with the light of life.

I do believe that God used my mother, graced by these beautiful visions of heaven, to bless us with messages of His Divine Mercy. My whole family witnessed firsthand God's great mercy through her beautiful death. Even though she had amazing visions of heaven, we still offer Masses and pray for her soul.

Through my mother's death I have learned that God is full of compassion, love, and mercy. Heaven is real, and God wants all of us with Him in eternity. However scarlet our sins may be, He stands before us with open arms, waiting to grant us forgiveness.

I am presently part of a ministry that prays at the bedside of the sick and dying. Our Divine Mercy prayer group continues to seek God's guidance in spreading the message of Divine Mercy.

God's mercy is endless. God's mercy is unfathomable. God's mercy is His gift to us because He loves us with an unconditional love.

May we all delight ourselves in the healing rays of God's omnipotent mercy!

You may contact Kathy Wabick at www.TreasuresofGraceLLC.com to either purchase Open My Eyes or to have prayer requests prayed for and placed under a relic of St. Faustina.

Upcoming Divine Mercy Events

There are numerous Divine Mercy conferences and workshops taking place across the country, as the fruits of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy that took place in Rome in April 2008:

Jan. 16

Ministries Day for Archdiocese of San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Texas, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM), Joan and Dave Maroney
Contact: Archdiocese at 210-734-2620

Feb. 21-23

MOMM Presentations, Mesquite, Texas • 7-9 p.m.
Divine Mercy of Our Lord Catholic Church
Contact: Stephen Foster at 972-285-0903

March 6

Divine Mercy Conference, Tampa, Fla.
Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, Bryan Thatcher
Speakers include: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Immaculee Ilibagiza
Contact: 1-800-462-7426

March 26

MOMM Presentation, San Antonio, Texas • 7-9 p.m.
St. Dominic Church
Contact: Maria Solis at 210-324-4551

March 27

5th Annual Divine Mercy Conference, Bronx, N.Y. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cardinal Spellman High School
Speakers include:
Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR;
Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC; and
Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV.
Contact: 1-800-462-7426 or go to thedivinemercy.org/bronx

May 5-6

6th Annual Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy Conference., Worcester, Mass.
College of the Holy Cross
Marie Romagnano, RN
Contact: 1-800-462-7426 or e-mail healthcarefordivinemercy@marian.org

Oct. 8

Divine Mercy Conference, Milwaukee, Wis.
Rosary Evangelization Apostolate,
Contact: Dick Bolden at 414-570-4389

You Are Royalty!



By Bryan Thatcher

Do you realize that we all are of royal blood? Many of you might be thinking to yourself, "No Way! I am just a 'nobody' struggling with all my weaknesses, brokenness, and trying to get by day to day."

Even Saint Faustina had moments where she felt the same way, but she always kept her trust in God.

She wrote, "There are moments when I mistrust myself, when I feel my own weakness and wretchedness in the most profound depths of my own being, and I notice that I can endure such moments only by trusting in the infinite mercy of God" (*Diary*, 944).

And, "I am going forward through life amidst rainbows and storms, but with my head held high with pride, for I am a royal child. I feel like the blood of Jesus is circulating in my veins, and I have put my trust in the great mercy of the Lord" (*Diary*, 992).

Today, do you want to feel like you are in the royal court and the son or daughter of the King? Just trust in Jesus, for He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Cenacle Growth Continues



WEST ST. PAUL, MN

Elizabeth Kaiser wrote and told us:

We introduced The Divine Mercy devotion at the Cathedral of St. Paul (recently designated a National Shrine) in St. Paul Minnesota on September 25th, 2007. We had an informational meeting where the film titled, *Tell The Whole World About My Mercy* was shown, and about 50 people attended. A short talk was given on introducing an EADM Cenacle of Divine Mercy in the parish. A large oil painting of The Divine Mercy Image was on display, the *Diary* and leaflets on The Divine Mercy devotion were available, an outline of the Cenacle was handed out, and those who were interested were given a kit with information on how to join. There was a lot of interest and enthusiasm!

Our first Cenacle was began on October 5th, 2007, the 71st anniversary of St. Faustina's death. We are a small multicultural group from many walks of life, including two converts, one from Judaism, and all with a story of life's many struggles. Our group has bonded, and the sharing at our cenacles is very inspirational. Some are so gifted in expressing themselves with such an intimate love of God that their understanding of this devotion helps everyone to appreciate God's love for us. They radiate God's love with their smile and actions! One member has been cured recently from cancer.

Two members are nurses and use the opportunity to pray the chaplet for the dying when possible. Another member has gone to 10 dying people to sing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; the last person was a Lutheran and the family welcomed the nurse into their home. An image of The Divine Mercy is placed on the dying person, and a small booklet is given to the family, so they will understand the privilege the person just received.

We Want to Hear From You!

If you have started a cenacle, please send us a photo of the group (in jpeg format) and a 4-6 paragraph write-up on what your group is learning, a favorite lesson, works of mercy, etc. to Bryaneadm@sprynet.com

Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday begins with the novena and chaplet sung after the 7:30 a.m. Mass for the nine days, and leaflets are made available in the Cathedral to inform people of the graces they can receive on Divine Mercy Sunday. Over 1,000 prayercards and leaflets are distributed.

The Cathedral is beautifully decorated on Divine Mercy Sunday, and a large wall size painting of the image is present in the sanctuary. The rector, Father Joseph Johnson, always provides a devout service. The music is beautiful and mystical with an organ playing softly as well as a viola. There are usually 500 to 700 people attending each year. We have a table set up with literature that includes a display of what a cenacle is and a sign-up sheet for those who are interested. We collect the names of many people who are interested.

Every September, the parish sponsors a Shared Mission Fair on a weekend, and all ministries have the opportunity to set up a table to explain what their particular group does. We again have the privilege to set up and show our display that is very attractive and draws attention.

God is so good when we give totally of ourselves. He leads us in surprising ways. The people we meet, the occasions to talk on Divine Mercy, and the little miracles we experience are all occasions of grace. Jesus, I trust in You!

EL CERRITO, CA

Steve Andreatta wrote and told us:

Our association as a group of like-minded friends in Divine Mercy began in 2003. We were all working in various positions of the Divine Mercy Foundation. Our closest collaboration with each other was the



production of the annual Divine Mercy Conference that served to bring us together working as a unit, but with many interrelated jobs to fulfill. At the end of each conference (2004, 2005, 2006) we looked back at what we had just accomplished together, the work, the stress, the blood, sweat, and tears, discovering in amazement how things came together only by the grace of God, only through the miracle of our devotion to Divine Mercy. Through

Questions About Starting A Cenacle? Call the EADM office at toll-free 1-877-380-0727, and we'll send you a free informational packet with DVD on the ministry and how to start a Divine Mercy Cenacle.

CENACLES' UPDATE

all this, we created a bond amongst ourselves as family, a holy bond through the Jesus of Mercy that will last forever.

We no longer work with the Foundation, but we continue to pray together and accomplish the work of God's mercy. We started with nine souls and have since added four more who have met consistently with us these past two years, forming what we call our core group. We help propagate the devotion to The Divine Mercy by feeding the hungry, bringing His image to family homes to pray the chaplet, novena, and Rosary, bringing the devotion to Marian or Charismatic prayer groups, teaching Divine Mercy to CCD classes, assisting at the Feast Day celebrations of our various parishes or bringing the Feast Day to new parishes, and assisting with the installment of The Divine Mercy Image in churches around the San Francisco Bay area.

Our EADM Cenacle meets once a month on a Saturday, probably more than we formally meet with our own families. Invariably there are between one and up to 20 more friends, our associate members, who join us. We begin with prayer and petitions of need and thankfulness. Two chapters of the *Cenacle Formation Manual* are covered along with the requisite readings from the Bible and *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Lastly, we pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary. Discussions about any of the readings freely come up at any time and are quite lively and informative. We really minister to each other in what the Church teaches, and are blessed to have Reverend George Shultze, SJ, one of our founding members, to guide us. In addition we have a certified catechist, Steve Andreatta, as our group coordinator and two more priests, Fr. Felix Namocatcat and Fr. Emmanuel Foro, SJ, to fill in the blanks. Each month, we designate a new facilitator to lead the cenacle, building leadership and character in each of us. In addition, each month we try to have one person give personal witness as to how Divine Mercy has worked in his or her life. We call this our "Divine Mercy Moment." Lastly and not least, we eat. Dinner and fellowship are a must for Filipinos and Italians, as well as for our close family members.

Suffering has also been a part of our closeness: death in a family, illness, life struggles. Core member Evelyn has cancer, and one of our new associates, Marilou, recently passed away, both unexpected. We offer our suffering for those who most need God's mercy, and ask your prayers for us.

In Christ Jesus, we are proud to call ourselves Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy! Jesus, I Trust in You!

WESLACO, TEXAS

Paul Gonzales wrote and told us:

The Cenacle group from San Martin De Porres Church came together as a small group of people who wanted to pray the Novena to The Divine Mercy. Thanks to the support of our priest, Fr. Joe, we are able to serve with this mission.

Our Parish is the second largest parish in the Diocese of Brownsville. It serves both the English and Spanish-speaking communities. We conducted the novena bilingually so that we could serve more people. The novena was well received by the parish community, and on Divine Mercy Sunday, the church was full. Our parish priest led the congregation by playing The Divine Mercy Chaplet on the piano. We sung the chaplet bilingually, and it was beautiful.

We wanted to do more to help spread the word of Jesus' mercy and contacted the EADM office. Thanks to Pauline's help and guidance, we began the Cenacle. We meet twice a month and conduct our meeting bilingually. We start with a prayer and then sing our songs, one song in Spanish and one in English. Everyone then offers up their thanks to the Lord in the language



they feel most comfortable with. After everyone has had the opportunity to give thanks, the Spanish group goes to an adjacent classroom and discusses the required readings. The English group does the same. This is done out of respect for the language. It is not always possible to translate a word and understand its spiritual meaning.

After the discussion period, we gather together again and offer our petitions to the Lord. We then pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with a video. We alternate between languages every other week. We then all gather to share a meal and fellowship. We are one parish with many gifts to share.

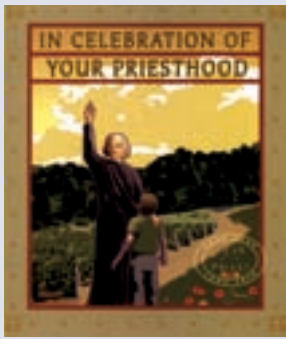
PHILIPPINES

Mary Sumalinog wrote and told us:

I wanted to share a picture taken during our Dadtama Divine Mercy convention in August. It was held in Tagum. The theme was "Peace and Reconciliation with the Divine Mercy Through Mary." I believe that this should come from our heart, and Mama Mary has a great role and will assist us if we only ask. God bless all our fellow EADM members!



Honor Your Priest!



This year has been decreed "The Year for Priests," so honor your pastor and all priests with this beautiful CD collection that includes

"You Are A Priest Forever," and two other original songs by singer/songwriter Annie Karto. It comes in its own specially designed gift card and makes a wonderful gift, especially during this "Year for Priests." Please call 1-800-462-7426 and order a copy for your priest today!

F-ISCD \$12.00



This is a listing of many of the events in 2010 planned for the **50th Anniversary Year of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, Mass. For a complete listing of 2010 events or for more information about any Shrine event, call the Pilgrimage Director Carol Scott at 413-298-1118 or e-mail her at pilgrims@marian.org. You can also visit us at thedivinemercy.org/shrine.

- April 10-11**
Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend, including a Divine Mercy Conference on Saturday
- May 8**
Scouts Pilgrimage Day, for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America
- May 29**
Shrine Golden Jubilee Celebration, celebrant Bishop Timothy McDonnell of Springfield, Mass.
- June 13**
Brazilian/Portuguese Day
- June 19**
Mother of Mercy Messengers Presentation, with Dave and Joan Maroney
- June 26**
Filipino Day

- July 10**
Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage Day
- July 16**
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Italian Day
- July 24**
Columbian Day
- Aug. 7**
Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy Day of Reflection, guest speaker EADM's Bryan Thatcher
- Aug. 15-22**
Marian Week, including daily Rosary procession
- Aug. 21**
Encuentro Latino (Spanish Day)
- Sept. 11**
Haitian Day

**5th Annual
DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE**
"Understanding Divine Mercy –
God's greatest attribute"

March 27, 2010
9:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Cardinal Spellman High School
Bronx, New York

Speakers include:

Fr. Benedict Groeschel CFR
Author and founder of the
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Director of Vocations for the Marian Fathers
of the Immaculate Conception

Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV
National Director for Priests for Life

Msgr. James Lisante, Pastor
Author, television commentator

Dr. Bryan Thatcher
Founder of Eucharistic
Apostles of The Divine Mercy

Mr. Joseph Campo
Independent film producer for Grassroots Films

Sr. Mary Sharon Mark
The Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Immaculee Iibagiza
Rwandan genocide survivor,
author of *Left to Tell* and *Our Lady of Kibeho*, will give her witness.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan
is expected to participate.

It is co-sponsored by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR), and the Divine Mercy Apostolate of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

**For more information contact
1-800-462-7426**

**GET YOUR
EADM KEY
CHAIN**



These beautiful gold-plated key chains contain our EADM logo pin inserted in the center. It is must for all EADM members and benefactors! You will get one **FREE** with a **donation of \$25 or more to the ministry.** We currently need funding for our next shipment of medical supplies to the Philippines, as well as monies for airfares and hotel accommodations for speakers for the Tampa conference. Please support our work!

Call 1-800-462-7426 today!
A \$12.00 value! F-DMKC

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE: TAMPA 2010

Please join us for a special event:
**Understanding God's Mercy
 in a World of Confusion**

WHEN

Saturday, March 6, 2010
 8 a.m. registration
 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m. – Conference

WHERE

Higgins Hall
 St. Lawrence Catholic Church
 5225 N. Himes Ave.
 Tampa, FL 33614

COST

\$35 before February 15, 2010
 \$45 thereafter. Lunch is included.
 Priests and religious are free but
MUST pre-register.

INFORMATION

To register or obtain more information
 call 1-800-462-7426 or visit
www.thedivinemercy.org/tampa



Featured Speakers and Guests Include:



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
 Director of Marian
 Vocations, Author



Immaculee Ilibagiza
 Rwandan Genocide Survivor,
 Author, and Speaker



Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC
 Director of Evangelization
 and Development



Robert Stackpole, STD
 Author and Director, JP II
 Institute of Divine Mercy



Fr. Arthur Proulx
 Diocese of St. Petersburg



Joan and Dave Maroney
 Co-founders, Mother of
 Mercy Messengers



Annie Karto
 Inspirational Singer
 and Songwriter



Bryan Thatcher, MD
 Founder, Eucharistic Apostles of
 The Divine Mercy and Emcee



Marie Romagnano, RN
 Founder, Healthcare
 Professionals for Divine Mercy

The day also includes Adoration, The Divine Mercy
 Chaplet, Confessions, book signings, and more!

Proceeds from the Conference will benefit the Marian
 mission in Rwanda and local Tampa Catholic Charities.

Philippine Shipment Received

A large shipment of medical supplies was recently received in the Philippines and was distributed to two needy sites: the National Bilibid Prisons and the Philippine General Hospital.

Eunice Cheng-Chua, outreach director and assistant to Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, wrote and said, "Accept our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your donation of medical supplies, clothing, religious and other items, which we have distributed.

All the items were distributed to the recipients noted above, and these donations will greatly lessen the misery of the indigent patients in both places. Thanks to EADM and all your benefactors very much!"

