

## **NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS ON MERCY**

November 14-15, 2009, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

## **DIVINE MERCY NETWORKING FORUM**

November 13, 2009, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C.

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM**



*“Go forth and be witnesses of God’s mercy,  
a source of hope for every person  
and for the whole world.”*

— Pope Benedict XVI, *Regina Caeli* message at the  
conclusion of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy,  
Rome, April 6, 2008

*“The hour has come when the message of  
Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope  
and to become the spark of a new civiliza-  
tion: the civilization of love. ... The message  
of merciful love needs to resound forcefully  
anew. The world needs this love.”*

— Pope John Paul II



*“Accept the mercy of God, this infinitely  
precious gift. Accept, and then give it to  
others. The more you give it away, the  
more you end up keeping.”*

— Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, President of  
the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy. April 3, 2008

*“The purpose of this Congress is to study, to  
reflect on, to celebrate the message and the  
reality of the richness and power of God’s  
mercy. Not just as an academic subject to be  
dissected, but rather it is the very core of our  
faith and our hope and our love.”*

— Bishop William E. Lori, Episcopal Advisor to the  
North American Congress on Mercy, January 10, 2009





KARDINAL DR. CHRISTOPH SCHÖNBORN  
ERZBISCHOF VON WIEN

Vienna, October 7th, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Dear members of the North American Congress on Mercy,

“Go forth and be witnesses of God’s mercy!” We all remember well the words of Pope Benedict XVI, as we gathered at the first World Mercy Congress in Rome, April 2-6, 2008. Since this remarkable event with thousands of believers from all over the world, we are witnesses of how Divine Mercy is spreading throughout the world. The Lord wants us to do these works of mercy. Jesus Himself calls us to deeds of mercy, by words and by prayers. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., is one of the most excellent places where the message of God’s mercy and love inspires numerous groups of pilgrims every day and transforms them to be witnesses of Divine Mercy as blessed St. Faustina wanted us to be. In her *Diary*, she wrote:

I suffer great pain when I see the sufferings of others. All these sufferings are reflected in my heart. I carry their torments in my heart so that it even wears me out physically. I would like all pains to fall upon me so as bring relief to my neighbor (1039).

In these words, we find the true love of Christ that must inspire our humanity today. How many souls have been consoled by the prayer “Jesus, I trust in You,” which Providence intimated through St. Faustina!

Let us pray to the Lord that our hearts may be merciful so that we feel all the sufferings of our neighbors. Let us begin to trust in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. Then we can bear all our own sufferings to the merciful Lord.

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina as a gift of God to our time. She can help us to have a living experience of the depth of Divine Mercy and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May the message of Divine Mercy, which is the message of light and hope, spread throughout the world: Jesus, I trust in You!  
*Jezu, ufam tobie!*

+ Christoph Kard. Schönborn



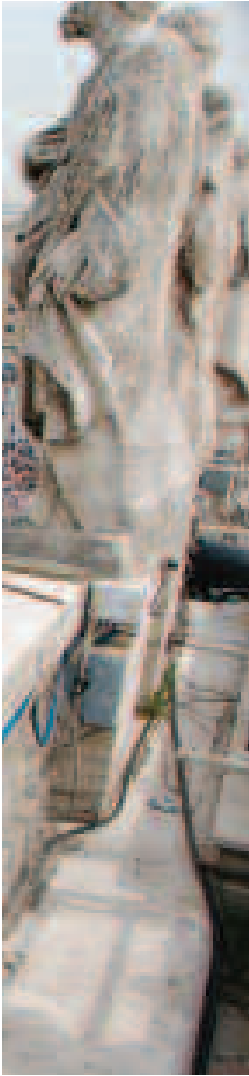
## World Congress on Mercy: 'Christ's Love Source of World's True Peace'

Animated and invigorated by their love of the Merciful Lord, thousands of pilgrims from around the world descended upon Rome on April 2-6, 2008, for the first-ever World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM).

How historic was this five-day Mercy Congress? It was the first time in more than 100 years that the Shepherds of the Church chose to emphasize a specific, vital aspect of the faith by declaring an Apostolic Congress.

The Congress included talks, music, praise, worship, street missions, and celebrations of the Sacraments, all book-ended by an opening Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI and the Holy Father's closing remarks in his noon *Regina Caeli*.

The idea for WACOM came in July 2005 at the end of an international retreat for priests and their pastoral co-workers, which took place at the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, Poland. Led by Cardinals Christoph Schönborn of



Vienna, Austria, and Philippe Barbarin of Lyons, France, more than 500 clergy, religious, and laity devoted to God's mercy gathered from around the world for the retreat titled, "Mercy, Unique Hope for the World."

David Came, in his book *Pope Benedict's Divine Mercy Mandate* (Marian Press, 2009), summarized this historic event well:

There in Lagiewniki, it was Pope John Paul II's entrustment of the world to Divine Mercy and his consecration of the International Shrine in 2002 that inspired the retreatants to develop the idea for a World Mercy Congress. The goal was to fulfill John Paul's mission of mercy when he said right before his solemn act of entrustment: "From

here there must go forth 'the spark which will prepare the world for [Jesus'] final coming' (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 1732). This spark needs to be lighted by the grace of God. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world." So, the World Congress was seen at its inception as an important means for spreading "this fire of mercy" on the earth to reach all souls.

Thus, it was that in February 2006, Cardinal Schönborn presented the idea to Pope Benedict and "received his encouragement and blessing." Further, it was no accident that Pope Benedict approved opening the Congress on April 2, 2008, the third anniversary of the death of John Paul II, and holding it in Rome at the heart of the Church.

Why mercy? Why now? And why did Pope Benedict so enthusiastically back it? Simply because mercy is the source of hope for humanity. It can change the world. Now more than ever, the world needs to rediscover the core of the Gospel — that God is, first and foremost, our merciful Father who seeks to extend mercy to us all, regardless of our sins and shortcomings. God wants us to receive His mercy and share it with others. No matter how shattered things seem or how much we've sinned, God loves us and claims us as His own, and He wants us back — broken and imperfect though we are.

"Christ's merciful love," the Holy Father said during the Congress' opening Mass, is "a source of true peace for the whole world."

True peace infused those five historic days in Rome, as Church leaders and the laity delved deeply into the mystery of God's mercy and what it means for the world today.

"I believe this Congress is the second most important event in human history, after the Paschal Mystery as Christ outpours His mercy," said Congress delegate Susan Wilson of Salem, Ore.

"It's such an important event," said another Congress delegate Ellen Jonah of Ghana. "There is so much pain in the world. We've come here to learn about Divine Mercy, so that we can bring the message back to our communities."

From Rome we now gather in Washington, D.C. And in October 2011, we'll meet again for the 2nd World Congress on Mercy, in Krakow, Poland. In the process, we seek to make mercy writ large around the world. That's the hope of Church leaders. That's the hope for humanity.

Following the concluding Mass to the first-ever World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM), held in Rome in April 2008, Pope Benedict XVI gave Congress delegates from around the world “a mandate” to “go forth and be witnesses of God’s mercy, a source of hope for every person and for the whole world.”

As a follow-up to the World Congress, several Continental and Regional Congresses have been organized and are being held this year around the world. Here, this weekend, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., we celebrate the first North American Congress on Mercy (NACOM) with a specific goal of fulfilling this mercy “mandate” given to us by the Holy Father.

“The Holy Father inspired all of us to bring the message of mercy to our own lands,” says Fr. Matthew Mauriello, president and coordinator for NACOM. “So now, here we are. We seek to carry that spark from Rome to our own country, much in the same way the Olympic torch is carried from country to country. We’ve filled the schedule for the weekend with opportunities to learn more about the abundant mercy of the Lord so that we can then put mercy into practice in our own lives — take that spark and bring it back to our own dioceses, our own parishes, and our own homes.”

The Congress’ theme — and timing — couldn’t be more appropriate. In a land reeling from a financial and moral crisis, where families are struggling and fearful, amidst the fighting of two foreign wars, the episcopal advisor to NACOM, the Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., has declared that the theme for this weekend’s Congress is “Mercy: Our Hope.”

“The Congress will help people come to know God as a God of love and mercy

who forgives our sins, heals our brokenness, offers hope amidst anxieties and fears,” says Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, Marian director of Evangelization and Development and Congress vice president. “Through prayer, conferences, personal witness and the Eucharist, we wish to inspire many to a deeper trust in God and to share His gifts of love and mercy with our brothers and sisters in need.

## North American Congress on Mercy — Mercy: Our Hope

“Our love for God who has loved us so much and has been so generous with us needs to be manifested in our love for our brothers and sisters,” Fr. Kaz says.

How do we exercise mercy? Through our actions, our words, and our prayers, by performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and by developing an attitude of mercy in our daily lives.

“Be merciful even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36), Jesus taught us.

As Pope John Paul II said, “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called to ‘practice mercy’ towards others. ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (Mt 5:7). The Church sees in these words a call to action” (*Rich in Mercy*, 14).

To build a civilization of love is the life to which we are all called. The Church teaches us how — through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

## THE SPEAKERS



**Father Matthew Mauriello** will serve as master of ceremonies. Father Matthew, president and coordinator for NACOM, is the pastor of St. Roch Parish in Greenwich, Conn.

Ordained in 1988, he attended Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn. He was named the U.S.A. President for the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, held in Rome in April 2-6, 2008. He is currently completing his thesis for the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) from the International Marian Research institute in Dayton, Ohio, a branch of the Pontifical Marian Institute in Rome, Italy.



**Dr. Scott Hahn**, an internationally known speaker and author, will give a talk titled “Lord Have Mercy.” He is a professor of theology and scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville in

Ohio and is the founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. Dr. Hahn is also the bestselling author of numerous books, including *The Lamb’s Supper*.



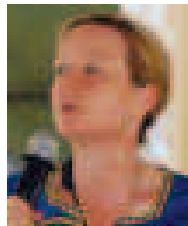
**Theresa Bonopartis** has been involved in post-abortion work and counseling for 20 years. She will address the Congress on the topic “Where Mercy Meets Faithfulness,”

touching on how God not only healed her from an abortion but radically changed her life. From Westchester County, N.Y., Theresa is director of Lumina, a post-abortion referral service that operates under the auspices of Good Counsel Homes founded by Christopher Bell and Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR.



**Dr. John Bruchalski, MD**, founded the Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, Va., in 1994 with the mission of establishing an obstetrical and gynecological facility that combines the best of

modern medicine with the healing presence of Jesus Christ — providing affordable healthcare to women, in particular, those with crisis pregnancies. In 2000, he founded Divine Mercy Care, a non-profit organization performing spiritual and corporal works of mercy in northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. He serves as chairman of Divine Mercy Care’s board of directors. In 2005, Tepeyac Family Center became a part of Divine Mercy Care and currently operates as the first Catholic healthcare facility in the Arlington Diocese.



**Kellie Ross** will give a talk titled “Imitating Christ through the Image of Divine Mercy.” She is the co-founder and director of Missionaries of Our Lady of Divine Mercy in Manassas

Va., which operates the House of Mercy, a thrift store that provides free clothing and new shoes as well as spiritual resources to the poor. The Missionaries opened a new mission in June in Ivory Coast. After her powerful conversion in 1998, Kellie declared, “I spent half my life offending God. In the second half of my life, Divine Mercy is my ministry in reparation.”



**Sister Mary Joseph, OP**, will give a talk titled “God Be Praised for His Mercies.” She is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, who preach the sanctity of life by caring for

incurable cancer patients in the United States and in Kenya who do not have the resources to pay for the care they need. The treasurer of her congregation, Sr. Mary Joseph lives in the motherhouse, Rosary Hill Home, in Hawthorne, N.Y.



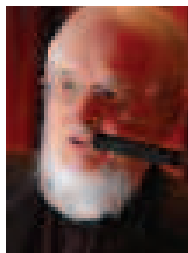
**Father Donald Calloway, MIC**, will speak on the topic “Mary: Mother and Masterpiece of Mercy.” A convert to Catholicism, Fr. Donald is a member of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception. Before his conversion to Catholicism, he was a high school dropout who had been kicked out of a foreign country, institutionalized twice, and thrown in jail multiple times. After his radical conversion, he earned a B.A. in philosophy and theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, M.Div. and S.T.B. degrees from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and an S.T.L. in Mariology from the International Marian Research Institute in Dayton, Ohio. He is the editor of two books: *The Immaculate Conception in the Life of the Church* (Marian Press, 2004) and *The Virgin Mary and Theology of the Body* (Marian Press, 2005). He is the author of the book *Purest of All Lilies: The Virgin Mary in the Spirituality of St. Faustina* (Marian Press, 2008). His new book, *No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy*, will be released in January. Father Donald is the house superior of the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville.



**Father Patrice Chocholski** will give the concluding reflection. From the Diocese of Lyon, France, Fr. Patrice is a well-known lecturer and theologian on The Divine Mercy message and the author of two books focusing on God’s mercy: *At the Source of Mercy — a Christian and Interreligious Approach* and *Pray Fifteen Days with St. Faustina*. Father Patrice is the founder of the “Fountains of Mercy” project, which brings together Jewish and Muslim leaders in France to share their belief in the mercy of God. He was commissioned by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of the Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria, to coordinate last year’s World Apostolic Congress on Mercy.



**Most Rev. William Lori, STD**, is the Bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., and the episcopal advisor to the North American Congress on Mercy. Bishop Lori will be the principal celebrant of Holy Mass on Saturday evening. Bishop Lori is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., and past chairman of The Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C. In 2005, Bishop Lori was appointed supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. Bishop Lori serves as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, and is a member of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the ad-hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage.



**Father Seraphim Michalenko, MIC**, will serve as homilist for the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Father Seraphim is a world-renowned expert on the message of The Divine

Mercy. He served as vice-postulator for the canonization cause of St. Faustina Kowalska, whose revelations in the 1930s led to the modern Divine Mercy movement. He serves as director of the Association of Marian Helpers in Stockbridge, Mass. He is a familiar face to EWTN viewers from his appearances on instructive and inspirational programs dealing with The Divine Mercy message and devotion. He was directly instrumental in the publication of the very first edition in the original Polish language of St. Faustina’s now world-famous *Diary*, as well as involved in the preparation of the same in several other language versions. He also was a firsthand witness of the miracle attributed to St. Faustina’s intercession that opened the way for her being declared a “Blessed” in 1993. He coordinated the efforts that served to verify not only the first miracle but the second as well. The second miracle led her to be declared a “Saint” on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000.



# FRIDAY 5:15 PM NETWORKING FORUM MASS

Main Celebrant and Homilist: Very Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC  
General Councillor and Advisor to Eucharistic Apostles

**First Reading:** 1 Wis 13:1-9

All men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God, and who from the good things seen did not succeed in knowing him who is, and from studying the works did not discern the artisan; but either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods. Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is he who made them. For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen. But yet, for these the blame is less; for they indeed have gone astray perhaps, though they seek God and wish to find him. For they search busily among his works, but are distracted by what they see, because the things seen are fair. But again, not even these are pardonable. For if they so far succeeded in knowledge that they could speculate about the world, how did they not more quickly find its Lord?

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 19:2-3, 4-5

**R.** *The heavens proclaim the glory of God.*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day pours out the word to day, and night to night imparts knowledge. **R.**

Not a word nor a discourse whose voice is not heard; through all the earth their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world, their message. **R.**

**Gospel:** Lk 17:26-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building; on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all. So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, someone who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise one in the field must not return to what was left behind. Remember the wife of Lot. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it. I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left." They said to him in reply, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather."

# MERCY, OUR HOPE

By Fr. Matthew Mauriello and Fr. Anthony Dandry

## *Refrain:*

Lord Jesus, King of Mercy  
We place our Trust in Thee<sup>1</sup>  
Our Hope and our Salvation,  
Please hear our humble plea.

## *Verses*

1. You saved Your chosen People,  
Their foes went in the sea<sup>2</sup>  
Your Mercy was upon them<sup>3</sup>  
And set the captives free. *Ref.*

2. Our Light and our Salvation  
No peril shall we fear<sup>4</sup>  
Our Hope in times of danger  
Shows proof that You are near. *Ref.*

3. You give us strength<sup>5</sup> to prosper<sup>6</sup>  
There's nothing without You.<sup>7</sup>  
Your Gospel gives us guidance  
In what we say and do.<sup>8</sup> *Ref.*

4. You reach out to all sinners  
When they are far away.<sup>9</sup>  
Bring back into Your Sheepfold<sup>10</sup>  
All who have gone astray.<sup>11</sup> *Ref.*

5. We sinners need Your mercy,  
We give as we receive.<sup>12</sup>  
By deeds done with compassion  
We show that we believe.<sup>13</sup> *Ref.*

6. Dear Mary, Queen of Mercy,<sup>14</sup>  
O please our Mother be;  
Our Advocate and Helper  
We give our hearts to thee.<sup>15</sup> *Ref.*

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Ps 37:3; 115:9

<sup>5</sup>Phil 4:13

<sup>9</sup>Lk 15:20; Jn 8:3-11

<sup>13</sup>Jas 2:26

<sup>2</sup>Exodus 15:1

<sup>6</sup>Ps 1:3

<sup>10</sup>Jn 17:21-22

<sup>14</sup>cf. *Salve Regina*

<sup>3</sup>Ps 136:1

<sup>7</sup>Jn 15:5

<sup>11</sup>Lk 15:4-5

<sup>15</sup>Act of Entrustment

<sup>4</sup>Ps 27:1

<sup>8</sup>Jn 14:15

<sup>12</sup>Mt 5:7; Mk 4:24

John Paul II, 10.8.00

## SOLEMN ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT OF THE WORLD TO DIVINE MERCY

*God, merciful Father, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.*

*We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every man and woman. Bend down to us sinners, heal our weakness, conquer all evil, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may experience your mercy. In you, the Triune God, may they ever find the source of hope.*

*Eternal Father, by the Passion and Resurrection of your Son, have mercy on us and upon the whole world! Amen.*

— Pope John Paul II, August 17, 2002  
Shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków-Lagiewniki.

# SATURDAY 5:15 PM & SUNDAY 10 AM MASS

Saturday Main Celebrant and Homilist: Bishop William E. Lori,  
Episcopal Advisor to the North American Congress on Mercy

Sunday Main Celebrant: Fr. Matthew Mauriello, NACOM President  
Homilist: Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Expert on Divine Mercy

**First Reading:** Dn 12:1-3

In those days, I Daniel, heard this word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. "But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

**R. *You are my inheritance, O Lord!***

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption. **R.**

You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. **R.**

**Second Reading:** Heb 10:11-14, 18

Brothers and sisters: Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But this one offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin.

**Gospel:** Mk 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: "In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."



# **NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS ON MERCY: MERCY OUR HOPE**

**November 14-15, 2009**

**Basilica of the National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.**

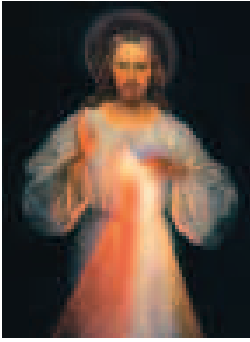
The North American Congress on Mercy is a grace-filled opportunity to gain a deeper, more profound understanding of God's infinite mercy. With an exciting line-up of speakers, this "mercy intensive" Congress will serve as a bridge to the next World Congress, scheduled for 2011 in Krakow, Poland.

## **NACOM SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

- 7:30-9:00** Registration
- 9:00-9:30** Welcome/Prayer: Fr. Matthew Mauriello  
President, North American Congress on Mercy
- 9:30-10:30** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Scott Hahn
- 10:30-11:15** Speaker: Theresa Bonopartis
- 11:30-12:00** Witness: Dr. John Bruchalski, MD
- 12:00-1:00** Lunch Break, Confessions
- 1:00-1:30** Witness: Kellie Ross
- 1:30-2:00** Witness: Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
- 2:00-2:45** Speaker: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
- 3:00-4:00** The Divine Mercy Chaplet - Exposition - Reflection
- 4:15-4:45** Concluding Reflection – Fr. Patrice Chocholski, STD  
Secretary General of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy
- 5:15** Congress Holy Mass – Most Rev. William Lori, STD  
Bishop of Bridgeport, Principal Celebrant

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- 10:00 a.m.** Special Holy Mass in the Basilica's Crypt Church  
Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Homilist



# **DIVINE MERCY NETWORKING FORUM**

**November 13, 2009**

**Pope John Paul II Cultural Center  
Washington, D.C.**

Deepen your understanding of Divine Mercy at this Pre-NACOM event through workshops, panel discussions, and networking with the experts. Get the tools and resources needed to bring this essential message home to your prayer group, parish, and diocese! Hosted by the Marians of the Immaculate Conception — promoters of the authentic Divine Mercy message since 1941.

## **NETWORKING FORUM SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER 13**

**7:30-9:00** Registration

**9:00-10:00** Welcome, Prayer, and Reflection

**10:00-11:00** Workshops:

- Protecting Human Life and Dignity
- Inspiring Youth and Young Adults
- Bringing God's Mercy to Healthcare

**11:15-12:15** Workshops:

- Starting and Enriching Divine Mercy Cenacles
- Renewing Your Parish and School
- Evangelizing: When You're Not Preaching to the Choir

**12:15-1:30** Lunch and Networking

**1:45-2:45** Workshops:

- Divine Mercy in Depth: Five Tough Questions Mercy Leaders Face
- Spreading Healing and Hope in Your Parish and Diocese
- Living the message of Divine Mercy

**3:00** Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

**3:30-5:00** Panel: Ask the Divine Mercy Experts

**5:15** Holy Mass

**6:30-7:30** Optional Networkers' Reception

# Divine Mercy Forum: Networking with the Experts

November 13, 2009

Call it a “mercy meet-and-greet.” The day before the North American Congress on Mercy, pilgrims will have the opportunity to take part in an unprecedented face-to-face forum with the “mercy pros.”

The Divine Mercy Networking Forum, hosted by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, will take place Friday, Nov. 13, at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, 3900 Harewood Road, NE, in the nation’s capital.

“We see this as a pioneering effort to bring the faithful and devotees of God’s mercy face-to-face with the experts,” says Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, vice-president of the North American Congress on Mercy and director of Evangelization and Development for the Marians, promoters of the authentic Divine Mercy message since 1941. “People often have specific questions unique to their own situations in life, and we felt inspired by the Holy Spirit to make this opportunity available.”

The questions of which Fr. Kaz speaks include:

- How can I learn more about the message of Divine Mercy and its spirituality and how can I live and witness it in my own daily life.
- How can I share The Divine Mercy

message in a more effective way with my family, friends, parish, community, and co-workers?

- How do I convey to my pastor the importance of the Divine Mercy message as a source of renewal and the great blessing of Divine Mercy Sunday?

In designing the agenda for the forum, Fr. Kaz says organizers selected topics that would complement NACOM. He noted many of the speakers are well known Divine Mercy promoters.

Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy and emcee of the forum, says the format “will present workshops that show how clergy and laypeople can use Divine Mercy as a practical tool for daily life. It will present pro-life strategies plus pragmatic information for those with ministries in healthcare, prayer groups, youth and children’s groups, prison work, and parishes.”

Dr. Bryan Thatcher, MD, who heads Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, echoes the practicality of the networking forum. “Many of the participants will be people who have already been touched by the message of Divine Mercy,” says Dr. Thatcher. “I often am asked by these people how they can deepen that experience and at the same time participate more effectively in spreading the message and devotion. Our workshops will address these sorts of questions.”

The networking forum will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with nine one-hour workshops in three concurrent sessions (see schedule on page 13).

At 3:30 p.m., presenters will participate in a panel discussion titled “Ask the Divine Mercy Experts.” The day will conclude with an optional reception involving the participants and panelists. Light fare will be served.

## MEET THE MERCY EXPERTS:



**Most Reverend Robert W. Finn, DD**, Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph (Mo.), serves as chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Task Force on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person and as consultant to both the Pro-Life Secretariat and the Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. As a priest in St. Louis, he was involved in planning the first archdiocesan celebrations of Divine Mercy. In his diocese, he has encouraged The Divine Mercy devotion. Shortly after becoming ordinary, he established the Diocesan Shrine to The Divine Mercy and St. Faustina.

**Father Seraphim Michalenko, MIC** page 8



**Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC**, is director of Evangelization and Development for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and vice-president of the North American Congress on Mercy. Before he joined the Marians in 1980, he worked on the first Polish edition of St. Faustina's *Diary*. He later assisted with its English publication. He has served as director of the Association of Marian Helpers and has worked in seminarian formation. His love for Pope John Paul II led him to be the editor of the English edition of *The Making of the Pope of the Millennium: Kalendarium of the life of Karol Wojtyła*, a compendium of primary sources that chronicle the life and activities of the pre-pontifical period of John Paul II. Fr. Kaz is a member of the executive committee of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy.

**Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC** page 8



**Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC**, is rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. His love for the unborn led him to Rachel's Vineyard.



**Father Joseph Roesch, MIC** is a member of the Marian Fathers' General Council in Rome. Father Joe has served the Marians as a rector of The Divine Mercy Shrine and a director of seminary formation. As a general councillor, Fr. Joe has promoted the Marian missions, especially the Marians' new Divine Mercy mission in the Philippines. Fr. Joe has hosted the EWTN *Cenacle of The Divine Mercy* Series and anchored many live EWTN Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations.

**Dr. Bryan Thatcher, MD**, is the founder and director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), an apostolate of the Marians Fathers, that is based in Riverview, Florida. EADM offers spiritual formation in Divine Mercy, assists the poor and the dying.



**Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD**, is director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He is the author of several books, including *Divine Mercy: A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI* (Marian Press). He is also the writer of the popular "Divine Mercy Q&A" column on [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org).



**Marie Romagnano, RN**, is the founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception that specializes in training

healthcare professionals on the healing power of The Divine Mercy message in caring for patients. She is the founder/president of Medlink, a critical care service in the Boston-Worcester, Mass., area. She is the author of *Nursing with the Hands of Jesus* and the organizer of Divine Mercy conferences for healthcare professionals.



**Dave and Joan Maroney** are founders and directors of Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM), an apostolate of the Marian

Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. MOMM is dedicated to taking the heart of the mercy message emanating from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., to local parishes and schools. They have also produced two best-selling DVDs, *Tell All Souls About My Mercy* and *Divine Mercy for Young Hearts*.



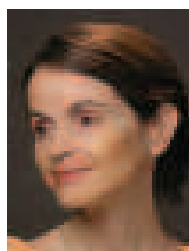
**Father Daniel Leary**, who has been leading men's and women's retreats for more than 12 years. His focus on Divine Mercy as an instrument for healing and grace has drawn many people closer to Christ, strengthened their faith, and led to an enriched prayer life rooted in the Sacraments. Ordained in 1997, he serves as pastor at Jesus the Divine Word Church in Huntingtown, Md.

**Ted Hanley** is founder of one of the nation's most effective organizations performing community-based works of mercy, The Jesse Tree, based in Galveston, Texas.



**Terry Muzones** of Chicago, Ill., is a longtime promoter of the message of The Divine Mercy. She has helped set up Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy cenacles in the Philippines, United States, China, Holland, and Africa.

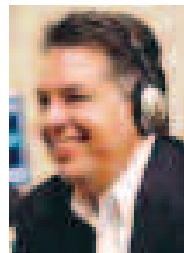
**Janis Clarke** is a singer, songwriter, and speaker who recently launched "Word for Life Rosary Mission." In collaboration with renowned scripture scholar Fr. Francis Martin, Janis produced *Commuter Rosary* CDs to draw Catholics deeper into the Word, the Sacraments, and the new evangelization. She sang for Pope



**John Paul II** in Toronto during World Youth Day 2002 and received his blessing. In 2006, she founded the Eucharist for Life Children's Mission, which encourages children to pray for priests, for the unborn, and for mercy on the whole world. She lives in Gaithersburg, Md.

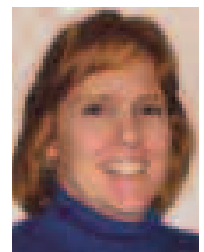
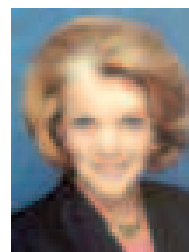
**Patrick Massari** is a graduate of Georgetown University who practices civil rights law in Washington, D.C. He started the Divine Mercy Cenacle at Our Lady's Center in Ellicott City, Md., a Marian shrine and bookstore, where he also serves on the board of directors. He is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Ellicott City and serves as lector. He's a member of the Legion of Mary. He also serves in prison ministry.

**Drew Mariani** is a radio talk show host and managing editor at Relevant Radio, based in Green Bay, Wis., who jointly produced the award-winning film *Time For Mercy* with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. He also broadcast live commentary and interviews from the first World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM) in Rome.



**Marlene Schlecht**, a delegate to last year's World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Rome, is the facilitator of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy cenacle at her parish, St. Peter's in Kenosha, Wis., where she also has helped start youth ministry and bereavement ministry programs. She is involved in a hospital ministry and supports Marian vocations and missions. She also promotes The Divine Mercy message with the Marians.

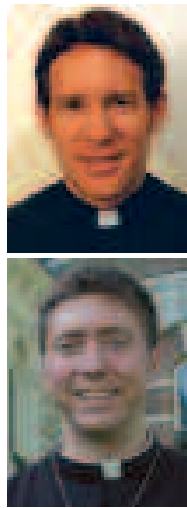
**Susan Wills** is assistant director for Education and Outreach in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. An attorney, she holds a J.D. from the





University of Miami School of Law and an L.L.M. degree in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. Since joining the USCCB in July 1993, she has overseen the preparation of the annual Respect Life Program materials. Susan has written articles for Catholic periodicals, secular outlets, and law journals and writes the bishops' pro-life newsletter, *Life Insight*. She also produces the monthly "Word of Life" series, a liturgical resource for pastors. She is a frequent speaker at diocesan conferences and has been a guest on Catholic, Christian, and secular television and radio programs.

**Dr. John Bruchalski**, page 7  
**Kellie Ross**, page 7



**Brs. Michael Gaitley, MIC,** and **Richard Mary Dolan, MIC,** are Marian seminarians. Br. Michael is currently preparing for priestly ordination and assists Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, in promoting The Divine Mercy message. He has appeared several times on EWTN. Br. Richard, a second-year theology student, is also a college outreach coordinator for "Fresh Anointing's" in the Washington, D.C. area, which ministers to young adults from 18-35 but primarily to college-age students.

## THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Opening Prayers (optional):

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us (*Diary*, 1319).

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (*three times*) (84).

Pray: **"Our Father"**

Pray: **"Hail Mary"**

Pray the Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

On the *"Our Father"* bead before each decade, pray:

**Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world (476).**

On the *"Hail Mary"* beads of each decade, pray:

**For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (three times)**

After 5 decades, pray:

**Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (three times)**

### Closing Prayer (optional):

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen (950).

# Proclaim Mercy!

*In his groundbreaking encyclical letter Rich in Mercy, Pope John Paul II, writes:*

The Church proclaims the truth of God's mercy revealed in the crucified and risen Christ, and she professes it in various ways. Furthermore, she seeks to practice mercy towards people through people, and she sees in this an indispensable condition for solicitude for a better and "more human" world, today and tomorrow. However, at no time and in no historical period — especially at a moment as critical as our own — can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it. Precisely this is the fundamental right and duty of the Church in Christ Jesus, her right and duty towards God and towards humanity. The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word "mercy," moves away from God and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy "with loud cries" (Heb 5:7). These "loud cries" should be the mark of the Church of our times, cries uttered to God to implore His mercy, the certain manifestation of which she professes and proclaims as having already come in Jesus crucified and risen, that is, in the Paschal Mystery. It is this mystery which bears within itself the most complete revelation of mercy, that is, of that love which is more powerful than death, more powerful than sin and every evil, the love which lifts man up when he falls into the abyss and frees him from the greatest threats.

Modern man feels these threats. What has been said above in this regard is only a rough outline. Modern man often anxiously wonders about the solu-



tion to the terrible tensions which have built up in the world and which entangle humanity. And if at times he lacks the courage to utter the word "mercy," or if in his conscience empty of religious content he does not find the equivalent, so much greater is the need for the Church to utter this word, not only in her own name but also in the name of all the men and women of our time.

Everything that I have said in the present document on mercy should therefore be continually transformed into an ardent prayer: into a cry that implores mercy according to the needs of man in the modern world. May this cry be full of that truth about mercy which has found such rich expression in Sacred Scripture and in Tradition, as also in the authentic life of faith of countless generations of the People of God. With this cry let us, like the sacred writers, call upon the God who cannot despise anything that He has made, the God who is faithful

to Himself, to His fatherhood and His love. And, like the prophets, let us appeal to that love which has maternal characteristics and which, like a mother, follows each of her children, each lost sheep, even if they should number millions, even if in the world evil should prevail over goodness, even if contemporary humanity should deserve a new “flood” on account of its sins, as once the generation of Noah did. Let us have recourse to that fatherly love revealed to us by Christ in His messianic mission, a love which reached its culmination in His cross, in His death and resurrection. Let us have recourse to God through Christ, mindful of the words of Mary’s Magnificat, which proclaim mercy “from generation to generation.” Let us implore God’s mercy for the present generation. May the Church which, following the example of Mary, also seeks to be the spiritual mother of mankind, express in this prayer her maternal solicitude and at the same time her confident love, that love from which is born the most burning need for prayer.

## Mercy: ‘Central Nucleus of the Gospel’

The following is extracted from David Came’s book *Pope Benedict’s Divine Mercy Mandate* (Marian Press, 2009):

Pope Benedict XVI, during his *Regina Caeli* message on Divine Mercy Sunday, March 30, 2008, lays out the centrality of Divine Mercy for the Gospel, the life of the Church, and the peace and well-being of the world:

Indeed, mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarna-

tion of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for man, and therefore for us. When the Church has to recall an unrecognized truth or a betrayed good, she always does so impelled by merciful love, so that men and women may have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10:10). From Divine Mercy, which brings peace to hearts, genuine peace flows into the world, peace between different peoples, cultures and religions.

Let’s see if we can parse this meaty statement along the lines of the Gospel, the Church, and the world.

**The Gospel:** Mercy is at the center of the Gospel message, the source of its dynamism, revealing to us the very name of God Himself. It can be traced in the Old Covenant and is realized fully in Jesus Christ, who is Divine Mercy Incarnate and who saved us by His Passion, death, and Resurrection.

**The Church:** In Christ, this merciful love is manifested through the sacramental life of His Church and the works of mercy that are done through her members. As such, the Church is called to show forth God’s mercy to all men and women. Motivated by merciful love, the Church always defends the truth and the good for the life of souls.

**The World:** Only Divine Mercy can bring genuine peace to the human heart and the whole world, including “peace between different peoples, cultures and religions.”

# Eucharist: The Presence of Mercy

Where can we experience God's mercy? The following excerpt from the booklet *The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion* (Marian Press) explains:

In His great love for us, the Lord Jesus gave us a great miracle of mercy: the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

God did not only become man in the Incarnation to give His life for us on the cross and to rise again in glory. The Incarnation also looked forward to Jesus remaining with us to the end of time in the Eucharist. By this great miracle of Our Lord's love, the Real Presence of Jesus remains with us under the form of bread and wine. As Pope Paul VI wrote in *The Credo of the People of God*:

"The unique and indivisible existence of the Lord glorious in heaven is rendered present by the sacrament in the many places on earth where the Mass is celebrated. And this existence remains present after the Sacrifice, in the Blessed Sacrament which is, in the tabernacle, the living heart of each of our churches. And it is our very sweet duty to honor and adore in the blessed Host which our eyes see, the Incarnate Word whom they cannot see, and who, without leaving heaven, is made present before us" (pub. 1968).

The Eucharist is central to devotion to The Divine Mercy, and many of the elements of the devotion are essentially Eucharistic — especially the Image, the Chaplet, and the Feast of Mercy. The Image, with its red and pale rays, represents the Eucharistic Lord Jesus, whose Heart has been pierced and now pours forth blood and water as a fountain of mercy for us. It is the Image of God's

sacrificial gift of mercy made present in every Mass.

Several times in her *Diary*, St. Faustina writes of seeing the red and pale rays coming, not from the Image, but from the Sacred Host; and once, as the priest exposed the Blessed Sacrament, she saw the rays from the Image pierce the Host and spread out from it all over the world (see 441). So too, with the eyes of faith, we should see in every Host the merciful Savior pouring Himself out as a fountain of mercy for us.

This concept of the Eucharist as a fountain of grace and mercy is not only found in the *Diary*, but also in Church teaching. The Church clearly teaches that all the other sacraments are directed towards the Eucharist and draw their power from it.

In the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, for example, we read:

"Especially from the Eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us as from a fountain." And, in a note in the *Catechism of the Council of Trent*, pastors are urged to "compare the Eucharist to a fountain and the other sacraments to rivulets. For the Holy Eucharist is truly and necessarily to be called the fountain of all graces, containing, as it does, after an admirable manner, the fountain itself of celestial gifts and graces, and the Author of all the Sacraments, Christ Our Lord, from whom, as from its source, is derived whatever of goodness and perfection the other sacraments possess" (10).

No wonder, then, that St. Faustina was so devoted to the Eucharist and wrote so powerfully about it in her *Diary*:

"Oh what awesome mysteries take place during Mass! ... One day we will know what God is doing for us in each Mass, and what sort of gift He is preparing in it for us. Only His divine love could permit that such a gift be provided for

us ... this fountain of life gushing forth with such sweetness and power” (914).

“All the good that is in me is due to Holy Communion” (1392). “Herein lies the whole secret of my sanctity” (1489). “One thing alone sustains me and that is Holy Communion. From it I draw all my strength; in it is all my comfort. ... Jesus concealed in the Host is everything to me. ... I would not know how to give glory to God if I did not have the Eucharist in my heart” (1037).

## Reconciliation: The Tribunal of Mercy

To help us prepare to receive within us the actual Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our merciful Savior in the Eucharist, Our Lord left us another “miracle of mercy,” the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here, too, Jesus is present for us — for all of us, no matter how great our sins — as the merciful Savior, the fountain of mercy that cleanses, comforts, forgives, and restores to life.

Jesus tells St. Faustina: “When you go to confession, to this fountain of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul (*Diary*, 1602). “[I]n the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation] ... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated” (1448). “Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy” (1602). “Come with faith to the feet of My representative” (1448). “I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest. ... I Myself act in your soul” (1602). “Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of;

open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light” (1725).

He continues: “Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God’s mercy!” (1448).

To emphasize the importance of these two great sacraments of mercy, Our Lord has made their reception a necessary condition for obtaining His promise of complete forgiveness of sins and punishment for those observing the Feast of Mercy. And Pope John Paul II, who repeatedly stressed the importance of God’s message of mercy, has exhorted us that, “the Church of the new Advent ... must be the Church of the Eucharist and of Penance” (*Redemptor Hominis*).

In her *Diary*, St. Faustina pointed out that the Sacrament of Reconciliation not only obtains for us God’s forgiveness, but also heals the soul of the wounds of sin:

“Concerning Holy Confession. We should derive two kinds of profit from Holy Confession:

1. We come to confession to be healed;
2. We come to be educated — like a small child, our soul has constant need of education” (377).

This focus on sacramental confession as a source of spiritual healing is clearly emphasized in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

“The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that His Church continue in the power of the Holy Spirit, His work of healing and sal-

vation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the Sacrament of Penance [Reconciliation] and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick” (1421). “Indeed the Sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true ‘spiritual resurrection,’ restoring the dignity and blessings of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God” (1468).

## Prayer: The Plea for Mercy

Along with the Sacraments, both corporate and personal prayer is essential if we are to experience God’s mercy. True prayer is the dialogue of a trusting soul with the God of mercy. Whether we are confessing our sins in prayer, or giving praise or thanks to God, authentic prayer always springs from our trust in the merciful love of God. It opens us to receive more and more of His love.

Blessed George Matulaitis, the Renovator of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, provides us with a beautiful example of this kind of prayer in his *Spiritual Journal*:

Once again, I examined my life. On all sides, I see how corrupt my human nature is. Lord, such weakness. So many imperfections. I would fall into despair if I did not trust so completely in Your infinite mercy.

I can see, Lord, how Your abundant graces, flowing like the waters of a stream, constantly wash and purify my soul of the dust of its imperfections and the dirt of its transgressions. Thank You for this, O merciful God!

Intercessory prayer, too, must flow from trust in God’s mercy. We do not have to convince God to be merciful to us because — as we have seen — He is

“Love and Mercy itself” (*Diary*, 1074). He is always ready to pour His merciful love into our hearts if we are only willing to ask and receive Him. Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Rev 3:20). Through our humble prayer of petition, we open the door to Him in every circumstance of life. Saint Faustina understood the need for such prayer, especially in difficulties:

In whatever state a soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after this purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again. There is no soul which is not bound to pray, for every single grace comes to the soul through prayer (*Diary*, 146).

Jesus gave me to understand how a soul should be faithful to prayer despite torments, dryness, and temptations; because oftentimes the realization of God’s great plans depends mainly on such prayer. If we do not persevere in such prayer, we frustrate what the Lord wanted to do through us or within us (872).

### The Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. *Feed the hungry*
2. *Give drink to the thirsty*
3. *Clothe the naked*
4. *Shelter the Homeless*
5. *Visit the sick*
6. *Visit the imprisoned*
7. *Bury the dead*

### The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. *Instruct the ignorant*
2. *Counsel the doubtful*
3. *Admonish the sinners*
4. *Bear wrongs patiently*
5. *Forgive offenses willingly*
6. *Comfort the sorrowful*
7. *Pray for the living and the dead*

# THANK YOU!

On behalf of the North American Congress on Mercy's executive committee, we would like to thank the following people and organizations that have made this wonderful weekend of mercy possible:

First of all, we thank our Honorary Board members: Francis Cardinal George, Mark Cardinal Ouellet, Adam Cardinal Maida, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, Archbishop James P. Keleher, Archbishop Thomas Collins, Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell, Bishop Martin D. Holley, Bishop Robert Finn, and Bishop John Smith.

Our special appreciation goes to His Excellency William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., and our Episcopal Advisor. We also thank Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi and the entire staff of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center; to The Catholic University of America; to Drew Mariani and the staff at Relevant Radio; to the EWTN Global Network; to all the Marians — priests, brothers and seminarians, to the Marians' Divine Mercy apostolates, to the staff of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass., and to the members of the Association of Marian Helpers; to all the speakers and presenters and performers who traveled from around the country to share their experiences in living the message of mercy. We are deeply grateful to Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the President of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, Fr. Patrice Chocholski, its Secretary General; and finally to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, who gave his encouragement and blessing to the World Congress on Mercy and who has enthusiastically taken up the mantle of mercy from Pope John Paul II to become our beloved "Mercy Pope."

With best wishes and blessings in our Merciful Lord!



Father Matthew Mauriello, President  
North American Congress on Mercy



Father Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, Vice-President  
North American Congress on Mercy

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**For my information on NACOM visit [www.mercycongress.org](http://www.mercycongress.org)**

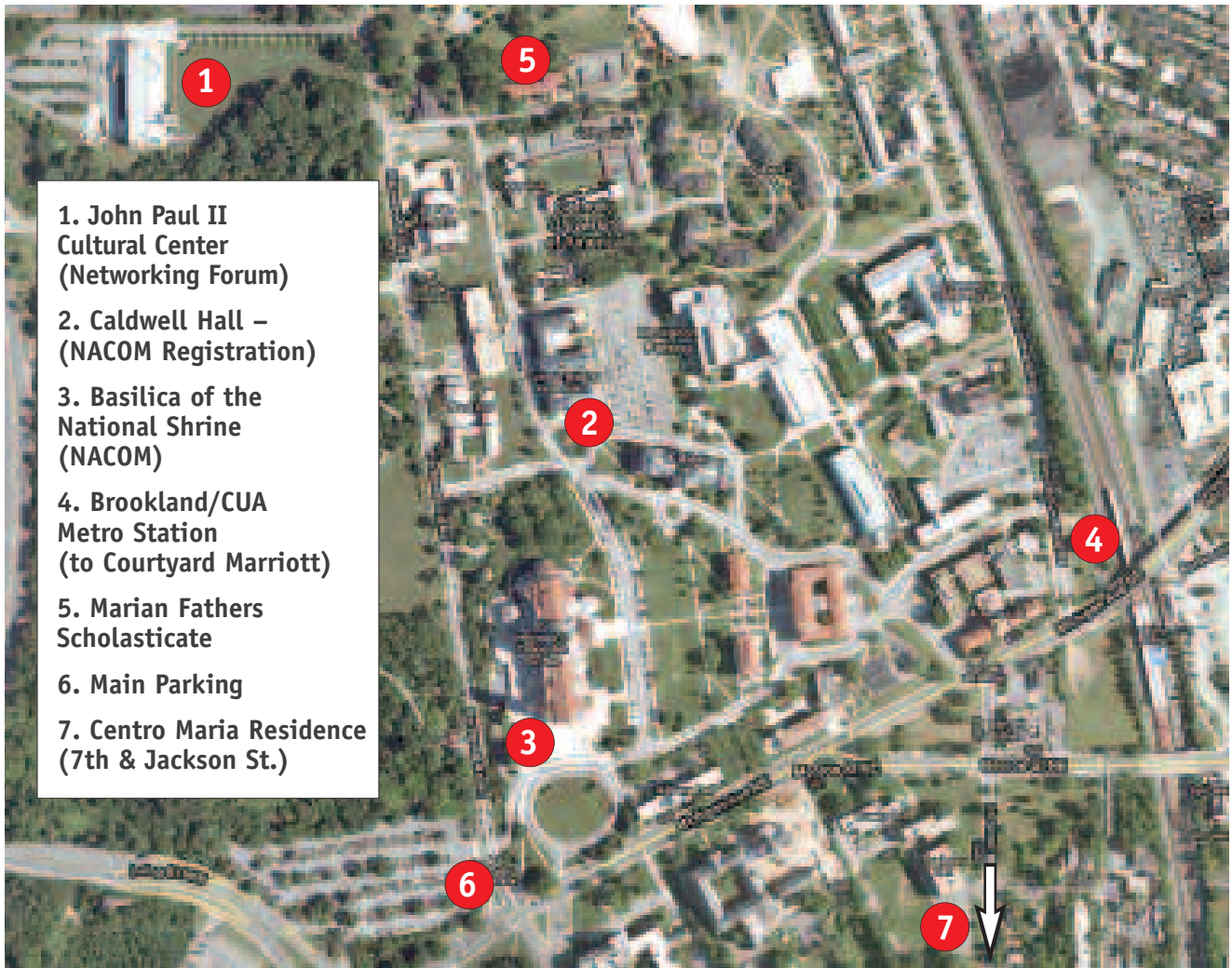
**For Divine Mercy materials call 1-800-462-7426**

**or visit [www.thedivinemeracy.org](http://www.thedivinemeracy.org).**

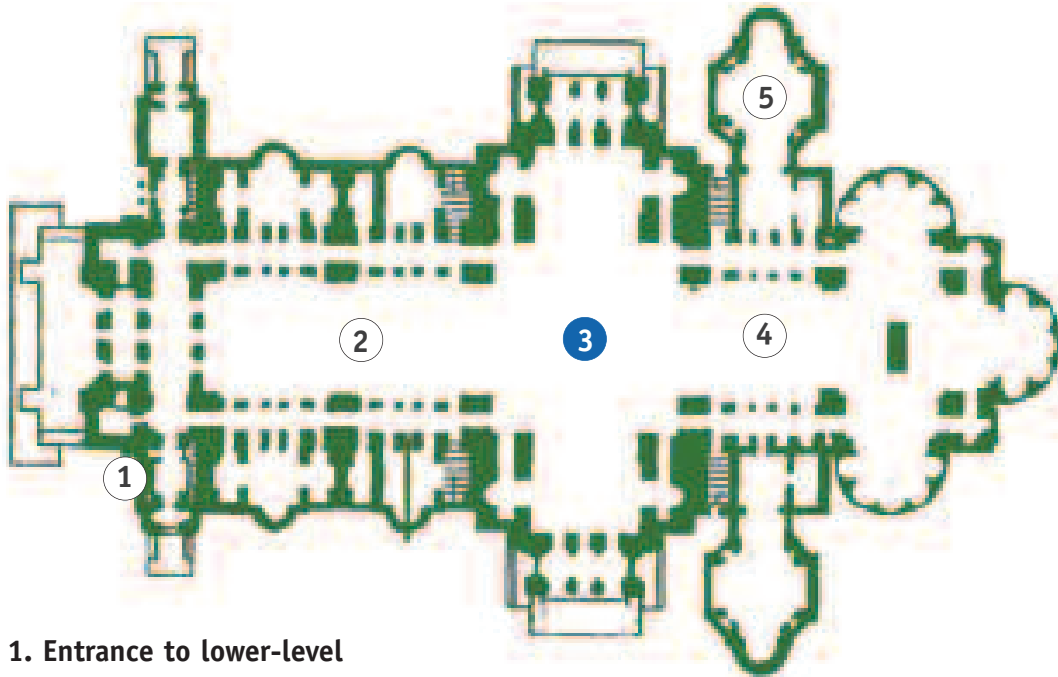
*Marians of the Immaculate Conception*  
ASSOCIATION OF  MARIAN HELPERS

STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01263

012345678



- 1. John Paul II Cultural Center (Networking Forum)
- 2. Caldwell Hall – (NACOM Registration)
- 3. Basilica of the National Shrine (NACOM)
- 4. Brookland/CUA Metro Station (to Courtyard Marriott)
- 5. Marian Fathers Scholasticate
- 6. Main Parking
- 7. Centro Maria Residence (7th & Jackson St.)



- 1. Entrance to lower-level
- 2. Memorial Hall (Pre-registration check-in, Info, Food)
- 3. Upper Church (NACOM Main Events – Conferences, Mass)
- 4. Crypt Church (Sunday Mass)
- 5. Confessional (Crypt area)

	Upper Church
	Lower Level (Crypt)