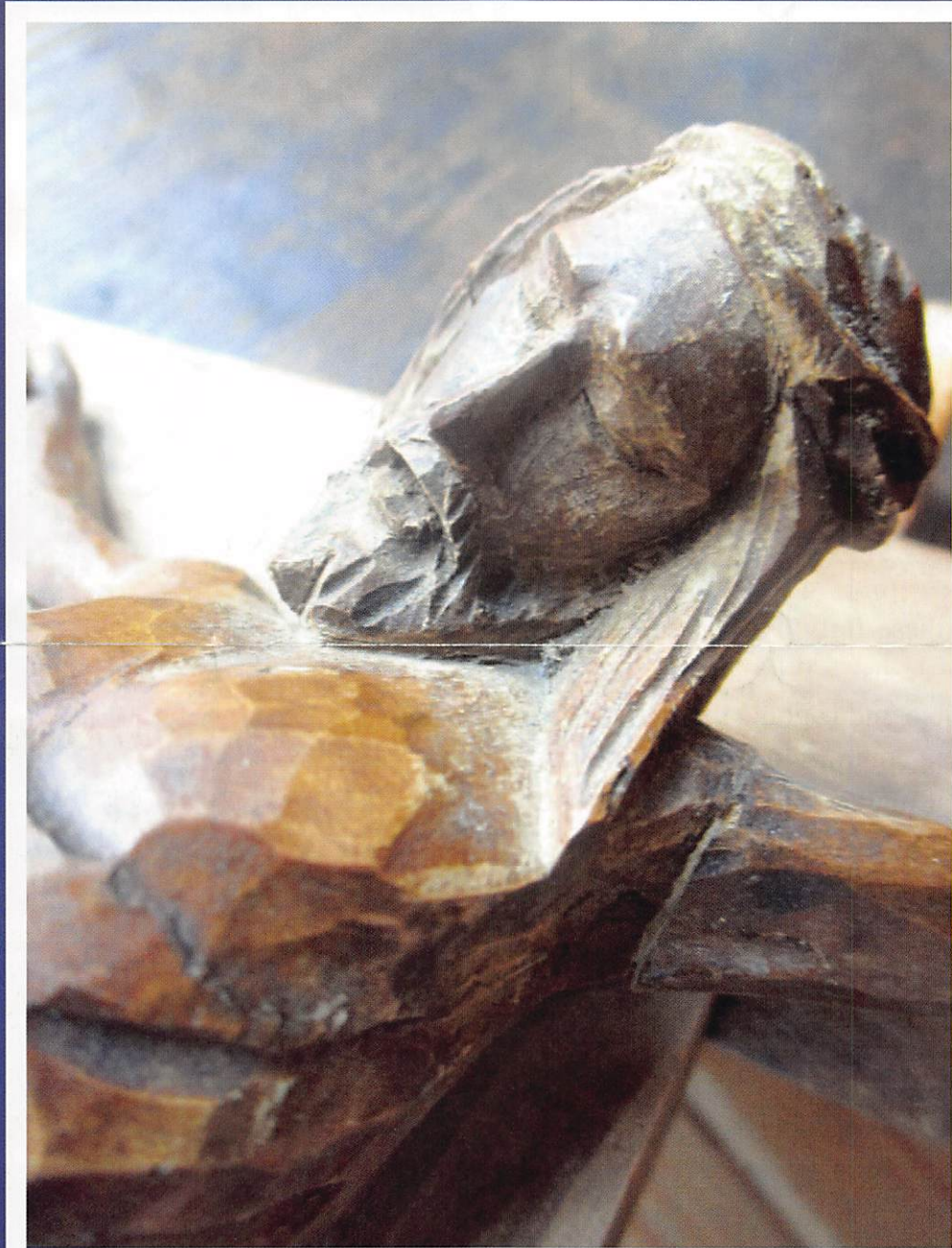


“And when it seems to you
that your suffering exceeds your strength,



contemplate My Wounds....”

“...Meditation on My Passion
will help you rise above all things.” (Diary 1184)

This Season of Lent

More and more these days I seem to hear people say that **Lent is their favorite season.** Maybe this is because it helps to explain and make sense of what they are already living in their daily lives. Sometimes Lent started last fall for us; sometimes it started a decade ago.

During these forty days as we struggle to accompany Jesus - Who has turned His Face to Jerusalem and is going up to die for us - we realize that, contrary to American culture and commercial marketing themes, **sorrow is not failure; it's an entry into the Heart of Christ.** ♦



“Join your little sufferings to My Sorrowful Passion,
so that they may have infinite value before My Majesty.” (Diary 1512)

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"TRUST IN THE LORD AND HE WILL ACT"

A Realistic Strategy for our Problems

MONTERREY, MEXICO, 1992

I was a member of the Brothers of St. John and not quite thirty-two years old. We had just arrived in Monterrey, Mexico, the country's third largest city, in response to the Archbishop's request that we found a house there.

We ended up in a poor inner-city neighborhood, the infamous *Colonia Independencia*. Living there we were quickly confronted with urgent needs on all sides. There was the need for evangelization and catechizing; for jail ministry; for education; for drug rehab; for marriage and family counseling; and much, much more. And at the same time I had been sensing for years a call to a contemplative life focused on prayer. How to respond effectively to so many needs? And to be faithful to this inner call?

PROBLEMS WE CAN'T SOLVE

We all face many problems, big and small, that we can't solve. From personal problems to global ones. What can we do? Is there any realistic strategy for such a multitude of challenges, sorrows, and catastrophes?

"MANKIND WILL NOT HAVE PEACE UNTIL IT TURNS WITH TRUST TO MY MERCY"

This brief sentence of Our Lord to St Faustina outlines a simple but powerful strategy:

Mankind will not have peace.... A lack of peace summarizes all the real problems we face: From diseases attacking our body to the inner demons of our personal battles; from all the tensions in families and workplaces, to immigration, economic issues, and global conflicts. The first step in this strategy is to recognize the truth: We can't solve this by ourselves.

My Mercy.... That is our hope, a divine hope greater than all the problems. We are not alone. We don't have to resolve all these problems by ourselves. God wants to pour out His powerful Mercy to heal our world. But for that to happen, something else is needed.

Until we turn with trust.... God calls for our cooperation. First of all by our faith, our trust in Him.

(Continued on next page)

A SIGN: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

I felt like the Lord was teaching us this same lesson under a different form back in Monterrey. I was struck by the fact that we had been assigned to help in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (Not the original one in Mexico City, but this regional one in the north.) In the dramatic era when the Spanish first arrived in Mexico, the Franciscan friars had seen almost no fruits from their attempts to evangelize.

But then something completely unexpected happened: The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe; and the Gift of Her miraculous Image. An explosion of conversions followed Her apparitions. And I witnessed how, centuries later, Her presence continued to radiate immense graces touching multitudes of hearts. This Gift from heaven did what human efforts could not.

But there was another key element: Juan Diego's faith and his obedience to Her request. His human cooperation was needed for this Gift to bear fruit.

Thus I felt the Lord was reminding me that He could do what we could not. What He asked of us was faith. And this teaching would be confirmed for me in surprising ways, over and over again.

REASON FOR MDM: FAITH, SO THAT GOD CAN ACT



And that is the reason for MDM.

I used to think that God's actions, God's communications to men, were a very rare thing. I've learned that they are much more common than I thought. He seems very anxious to work with us. The tragedy is that we often impede His action.

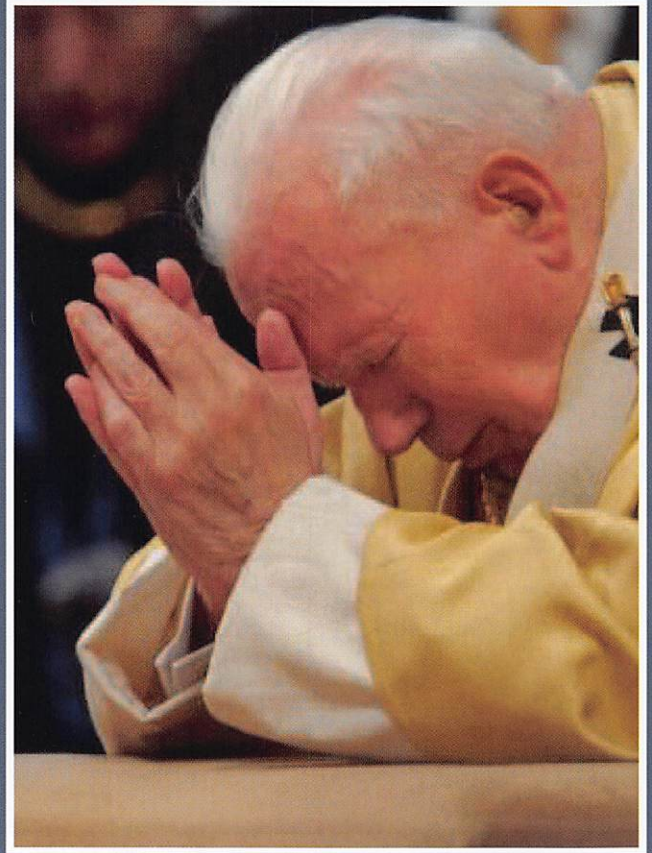
As I write this, I'm aware of how much I myself need to be reminded of this constantly. **And yet, in the thirteen years of the Mission, we have experienced His powerful providential intervention so many times.** Often in subtle ways. But sometimes not so subtle. And those stories have become and continue to form the history of our Community.

HE IS THE PRINCIPAL WORKER, ACTIVE AND ACTING

This is the main point of this article:
“Trust in Him and He will act.” That may sound bland and generic. But the realization that the Lord Himself can actually be acting in our lives makes all the difference.

And we are infected with doubt. We think that we have to “make it happen” by ourselves. And this mindset also affects and penetrates our attitude in the Church.

Particularly striking for us was John Paul II’s Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* published in January, 2001. We were immediately impressed by the strong Christocentric contemplative call it made:



“Ours is a time of continual movement which often leads to restlessness, with the risk of ‘doing for the sake of doing’ (no. 15).... Is it not one of the ‘signs of the times’ that in today’s world, despite widespread secularization, there is a widespread demand for spirituality, a demand which expresses itself in large part as a renewed need for prayer? It is therefore essential that education in prayer should become in some way a key-point of all pastoral planning (no. 34)

...There is a temptation which perennially besets every spiritual journey and pastoral work: that of thinking that the results depend on our ability to act and to plan. ... It is prayer which ... constantly reminds us of the primacy of Christ and, in union with him, the primacy of the interior life and of holiness....”

In the last newsletter I told the story about finding myself fighting a forest fire. (You can find it on our website under ‘Media’/Newsletters). I often wondered why I’d had that experience. It wasn’t until recently, years later, that I saw the lesson the Lord was teaching me almost as if it was a parable: We are faced with overwhelming and destructive forces, but if we trust in Him, He can act.

From Genesis, with His act of creating all the world, through the cosmic struggles and decisive triumph of the Book of Revelations, Scripture is filled with examples of God acting decisively, powerfully, surprisingly.

Take for example the passage from Ezekiel where the Lord denounces the unworthy shepherds of Israel and declares that He Himself will act (emphasis is mine):

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep, and will seek them out.... And I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them...into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel. ... I will feed them with good pasture. ...I Myself will be the Shepherd of My sheep.... I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.” (Ezekiel 34: 11-16)

This is most clearly manifested in Jesus. In Him is made visible God’s loving action to heal, to liberate from demons, to teach, to transform lives, to unify and reconcile His people.

And after ascending to Heaven, He pours out His Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles is striking for how evident the action of the Holy Spirit is in the young Church, guiding, inspiring, empowering. The Apostles rely on the Holy Spirit and follow His leading. *“And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.” (Mark 16:20)*



REALISTIC — NOT A MAGIC SOLUTION

This is not a magic solution. This doesn't mean that everything will come easily or quickly. Or that we will always get what we ask for. No, Jesus is very clear that this is a path of sacrifice and love, of purification and transformation. *He* sets the agenda and determines the timetable, which is often very different from our own. (I would often like to buy the Lord a calendar because it seems to me that He sometimes loses track of time ☺).

This is a path of daily taking up our Cross. But it is a real path. It is moving towards a real solution, the *only* solution.

AS WE APPROACH HOLY WEEK ...

...We come to the example of Jesus Himself in the Paschal Mystery of His Death and Resurrection. Experiencing weakness and injustice in His Humanity, He abandoned Himself to the Father. "Father, into Your Hands I commend My Spirit!" (Lk 23:46) It seemed that there was no answer. He died. And was placed in the tomb....

And yet then was raised up in everlasting Glory. Forever Victorious.

There is so much for us to learn here. Trusting to the point of abandoning ourselves into the Father's Arms, so that He can act beyond all human hope.

OUR ROLE: GOD'S CO-WORKERS

But if God can solve all these problems, how come they still exist?

Because He has willed that much depends on our cooperation. He has the primary role. But, as St Paul says, we are His "co-workers".

How can we cooperate with Him?

In the next newsletters, God willing, we will look at concrete answers to this. For the moment, let us remember "*Trust* in the Lord, and He will act". Our trust, our acts of faith, open the door to Him. So one simple step is to make often that act of faith:

Jesus, I TRUST IN YOU

Stories from Friends

We would like to hear from any of you who have a story to tell about your own experience of trusting in God and His response. If you would like to share that experience you may send it to Emily at Emily@missionofdivinemeracy.org or mail it to P.O. Box 1759, New Braunfels, TX 78133.

THE GREAT PASSAGE:

ANOTHER TRIDUUM RETREAT AT THE MISSION

The period of time between the Vigil of Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil is known as the Triduum. This short time is the most important liturgical time of the Church year. It is an intense spiritual journey during which we accompany Jesus, the Blessed Mother and the Disciples through the Last Supper, the Passion, the Death and the Resurrection. It is our salvation history in brief. **And we want to offer you the opportunity to live it in a new way.**

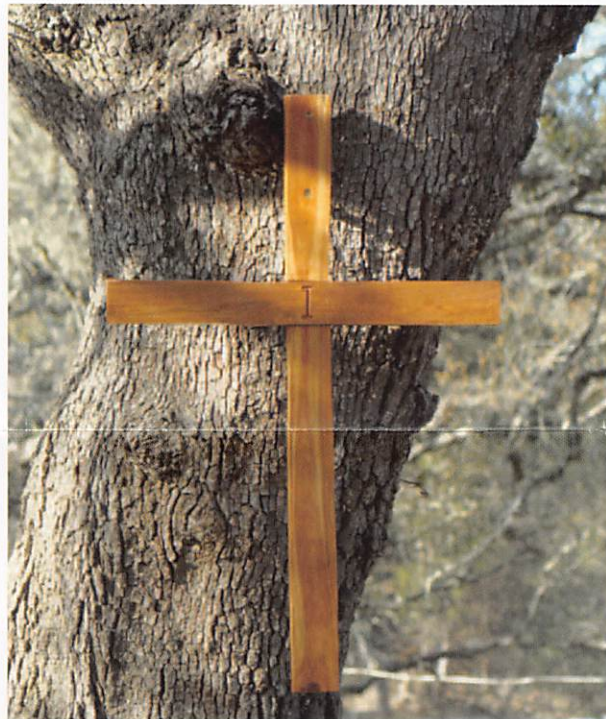
The Mission will offer a Triduum Retreat that will begin Holy Thursday evening and continue through Easter Sunday morning. It will include the traditional liturgical events of the Triduum as well as the special Mission events - the Walking Way of the Cross on Friday morning; the Vigil of the Sorrowful Mother on Saturday morning; and opportunities for Confession. **All of these are opened to the public** whether or not they've committed themselves to the Retreat.

But there will also be certain events specifically for those who have registered to make the commitment as Retreatants. These will include special talks, periods of meditation, and certain meals at the Mission.

In living the Triduum as a three-day retreat, we encourage you to give God the entire period, much as you would on an ACTS or Cursillo retreat. Unfortunately, we don't yet have the facilities to allow people to lodge on the Mission grounds. This means that people

will either have to return to their homes at night or go to a nearby motel. While these may not be ideal retreat conditions, even this sacrifice can be offered to Jesus, and can become part of this journey with and for Him.

We do want to stress the fact that the retreat schedule is flexible. We know that there may be family or other obligations that you may need to attend to. You are free to come and go as you please.



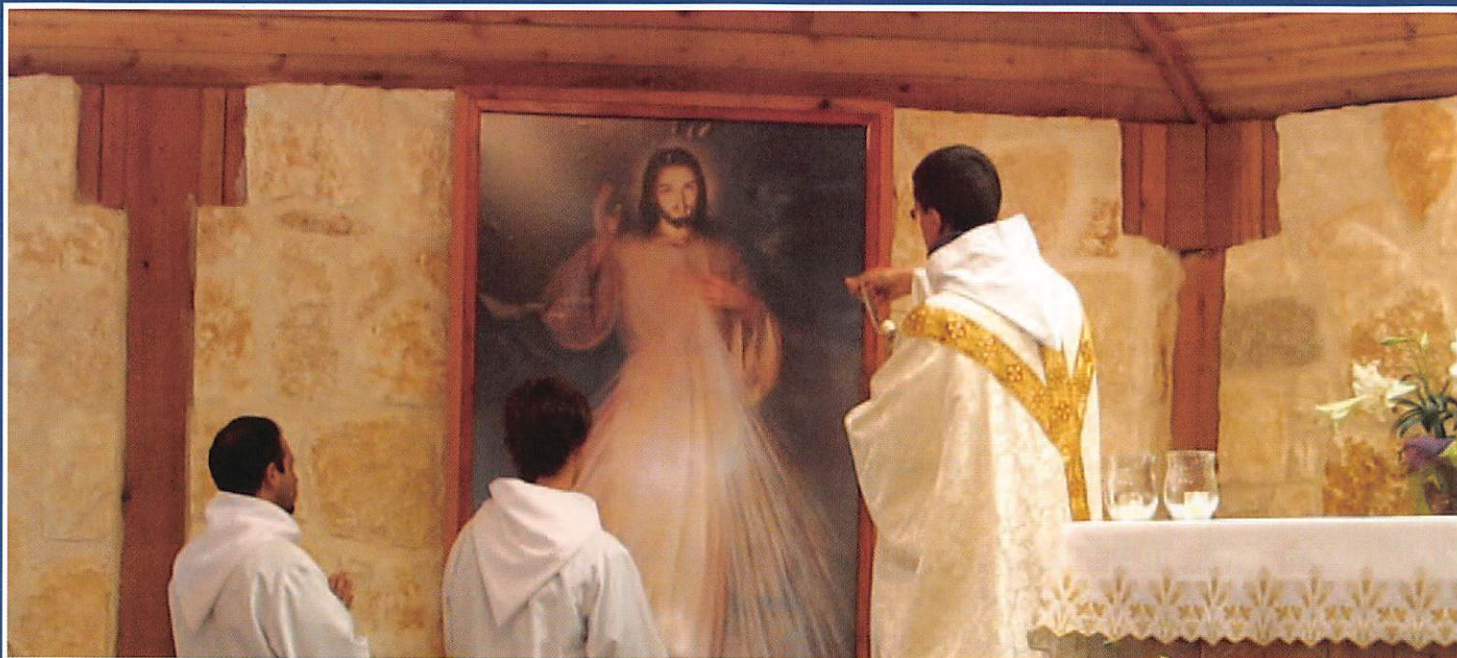
Registering for the Retreat:

For the complete retreat schedule, and to register, please go to our website, www.missionofdivinemeracy.org, and look for "Triduum Retreat" in the right hand column.

You can also register by calling 830-302-9707. The registration fee is \$45 and the deadline is Monday, March 30. ♦

If you are planning on attending events at the Mission, please respect our REQUEST FOR MODEST DRESS and alert those who will be attending with you.

Divine Mercy Sunday · April 12, 2015



*"The Feast of My Mercy has issued forth from My very depths
for the consolation of the whole world...I desire that this Feast of Mercy
be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners..."*

(Our Lord to St. Faustina)

Traditional Latin Mass 8:00 a.m.

Solemn Mass (English) 10:30 a.m.

Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy

*will begin after Mass and continue
until the beginning of the Holy Hour*

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
from the end of Mass until 3:00 P.M. **

**Holy Hour and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

More information will be available on our website.

A Special Promise of Mercy*

*"The soul that will go to Confession and
receive Holy Communion will obtain
complete forgiveness of sins and
punishment." (Diary, No. 699)*

*"I want to grant a complete pardon to
the souls that will go to Confession and
receive Holy Communion on the Feast of
My Mercy." (Diary, No. 1109)*

* Church officials have indicated that the Confession
could be made within 20 DAYS before or after Divine
Mercy Sunday. So Confession does not necessarily
need to be done on this day.

Modest Dress at the Mission

**This is consecrated land. Please refrain from wearing: Low-cut necklines, tight pants,
hemlines or slits above the knee; shorts, sleeveless shirts; or any tight or provocative clothing.**

THE CENTER AND ITS MONSIGNOR

The year of 2005 was proclaimed by Pope John Paul as the Year of the Eucharist. This was one of his last far-reaching acts for the Church Universal before his death on April 2, 2005; Vigil of the Feast of Divine Mercy. And it seemed fitting that the Lord of the Eucharist should choose that date upon which to call Home His Servant.

But our local Catholic population at that time was aware of another Providential Event: **On June 5, 2005, Monsignor Eugene O'Callaghan celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination.**

And it was at that celebration that we first announced our plan to build a Center at the Mission that would bear the name of Monsignor O'Callaghan. Monsignor's welcome, support, and defense of our fragile new community had been essential to our initial survival. And so we wanted him to be honored by and incorporated into the Mission that he'd helped to establish.

(We also wanted to honor – in him – all the Parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul, who extended so much kindness and help to us when we arrived.)

It has taken a little longer than we anticipated, but now finally it's becoming a reality. And the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center is rising up quickly at the center of the Mission, as sturdy and handsome as Monsignor himself.

It would seem, however, that we aren't the only ones who want to honor Monsignor in his Priesthood. Because the date for the completion and dedication of the Center will coincide - amazingly, providentially, and almost to the day - with the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination. (Friday, June 5, will be the actual Anniversary; Saturday, June 6, will be the dedication.) Now Who but the Lord Most High could have arranged that one!

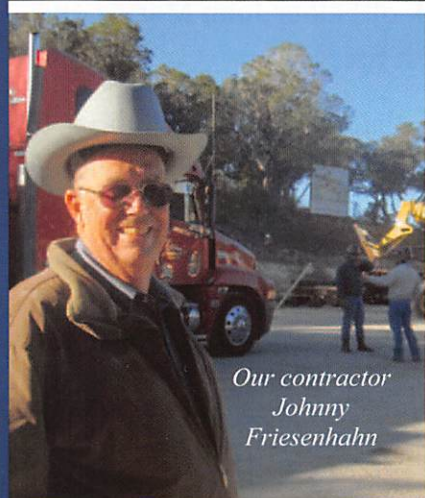


For me, when I drive in and circle past the impressive façade with its outstretched wings flanking the center hall, I see a symbol of the Priesthood of Monsignor O'Callaghan. For sixty years that Priesthood has formed a Shelter of Mercy for our souls in a world increasingly hostile to Grace. We are glad during this Diamond Jubilee of his Priesthood to finally make good on our promise. ♦

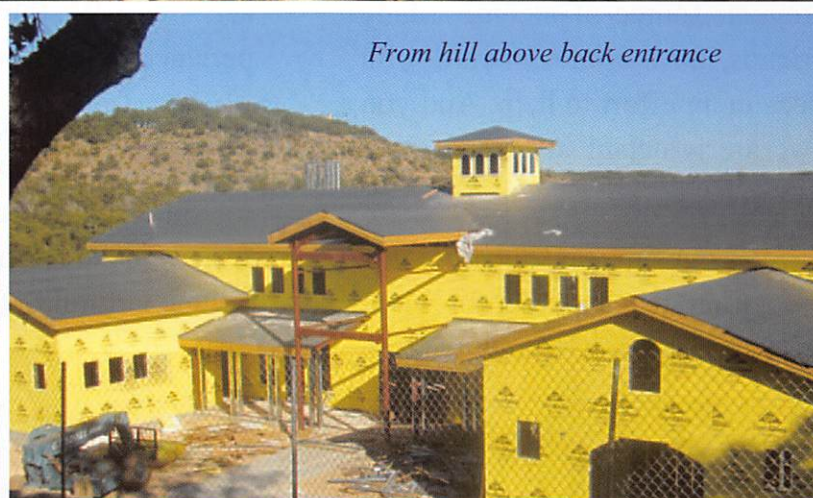
By Mother Magdalene

**SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, June 6th, 2015.**

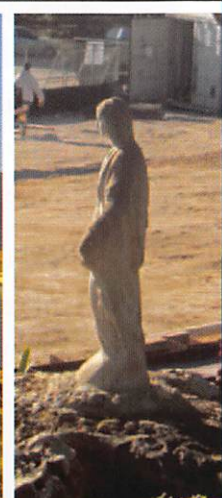
**Dedication and reception scheduled
for late afternoon. Details will follow.**



*Our contractor
Johnny
Friesenhahn*



From hill above back entrance



ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Our goal of \$1.8 million was an estimate of what it would cost to build the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center. Thanks be to God ---and a great architect and contractor--- this estimate remains on target. However, this amount does not include infrastructure costs, (sidewalks, roads, well and septic system) furnishings, landscaping and architect fees. These remaining costs are estimated at \$650,000. **Holy Angels and Holy Friends, help us!** ♦

When God is Your Director of Fundraising

Mother Angelica --- the cloistered nun with no experience and limited resources who built a world-wide Catholic media empire --- is a great inspiration to us these days. She said *that her heart trusted in God, but her stomach still needed Maalox.* (Boy, do we know that feeling!) And that *you can't expect God to do the miraculous, if you are not willing to do the ridiculous.*

Mother Angelica's personal experience gives us great comfort as we go forward with what we believe are God's plans for MDM's growth and ministry. Even as we are looking forward to the dedication of the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center, we are drawing up new plans for the construction of retreat housing which, when complete, will allow us to once again offer our Encounter With Jesus retreats.

These are big plans for a small community with no regular source of income. Many of you, our friends, have come forward with fundraising ideas in an effort to help. And you wonder why we are reluctant to pursue some of these other avenues.

As we assess our financial situation it is a constant temptation to scramble for more and new ways to raise money. But as we turn

to God in prayer, one answer seems to be abundantly clear: the key is to trust in God and seek His Will. Moreover, we feel that He is telling us that these financial challenges are opportunities for MDM to be more and more what He is calling us to be; and that we need to resist the temptation to compromise our vocation for money.

This is not to say that we aren't open to new ideas, but that every action we take should try to be in line with God's mission for the Mission. **Experience has taught us that if we do His Will it is fruitful. If it is not His Will, even if the action itself is good, it isn't fruitful, and only drains our limited time and resources.**

We believe that God's advice to us is "Be at peace. Seek ways for MDM to be increasingly what it is called to be. Most importantly, have faith in Me so that I may act." (We think of Father John Mary's experience of the forest fire.)

We believe that if we are faithful to prayer and do our best to provide opportunities for other people to experience the Eucharistic Jesus and God's message of Mercy, then God will be faithful to this Mission! ♦



A DIFFERENT TYPE OF RETREAT CENTER

From Fr. John Mary

Many retreat centers are facilities that are rented out to other groups. Ours is different.

The Mission of Divine Mercy is an apostolic center and shrine of Divine Mercy. But it is something else before that: a monastery. As a monastery, it is a home for a community living a life of contemplative prayer, work and fellowship.

But we want to share the spirit that the Lord has entrusted to us with others. That is the reason for our retreat center. It's not a business facility that we rent out. It's part of our monastery, our home, that we want to open to others who seek this spirit. We invite you to come to the Mission, not to use facilities, but to participate in this mission of His Mercy.

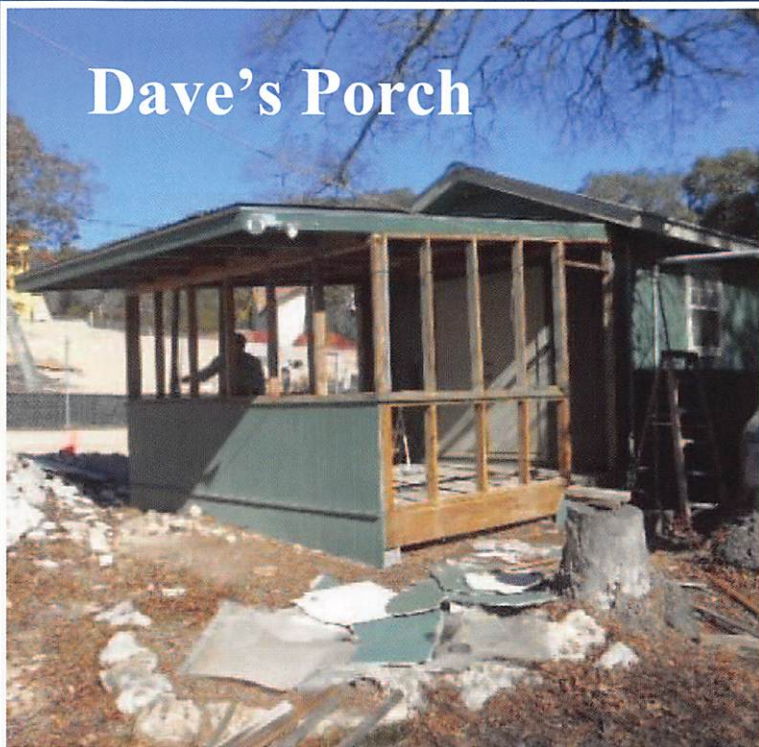
The primary activity of the retreat center will be to host the *Encounter with Jesus* retreats,

which we developed to introduce people to a deeper encounter with Jesus through silent prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. For many it has worked well as a follow-up to retreats like the ACTS and Cursillo. But we haven't been able to give it for several years due to lack of facilities. That's the main purpose for the OCDMC. Overnight accommodations will be the next step.

The OCDMC will serve also for the other activities we offer, such as day retreats, fellowship after Mass, spiritual conferences, etc..

We hope you can understand the purpose of the OCDMC. We always regret that we can't accommodate some of the requests that we receive. But there are other facilities. We need to be faithful to the mission we feel He has entrusted to us for you. ♦

Dave's Porch



The deconstruction of some of our original frame structures hits some of us in a tender spot.

Who would think that a Mission so young could already be looking back to the good old days.

"The old porch located at the back of the old 'MDM world headquarters' was the site of frequent meetings. During the first couple of summer camps it became the gathering place for the camp staff, providing a good out of the way location for the staff to rest and get out of the hot summer sun.

Before we had AC in the office I enjoyed sleeping on the porch on the nights I would spend here at the Mission. In later years it gave our feral cats a place to eat and enjoy the shade on a hot afternoon after a busy morning of mouse hunting.

So, like black and white TV, full service gas stations, push lawnmowers, dial phones, and kids remaining in their seat during Mass, the porch is gone: such is progress. *Dave*"

Author! Author!

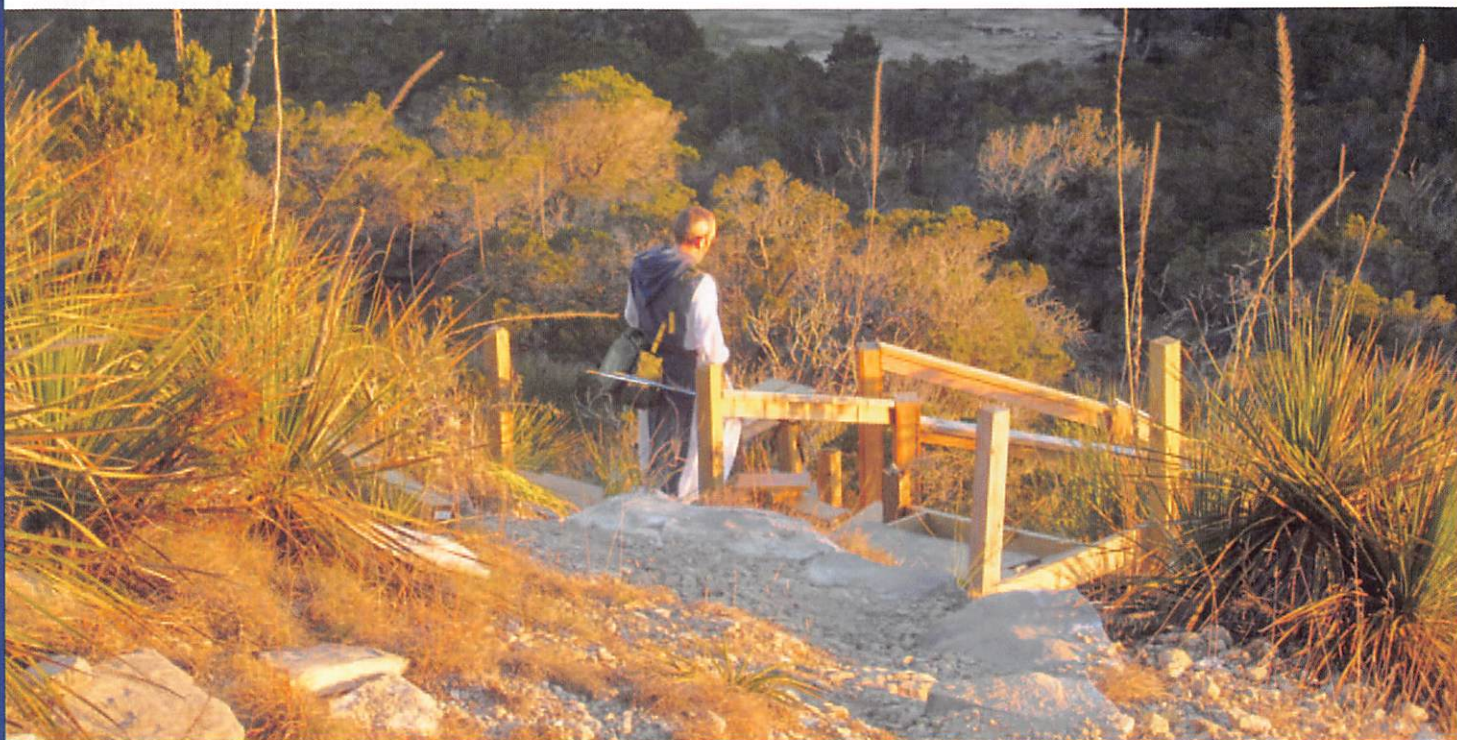
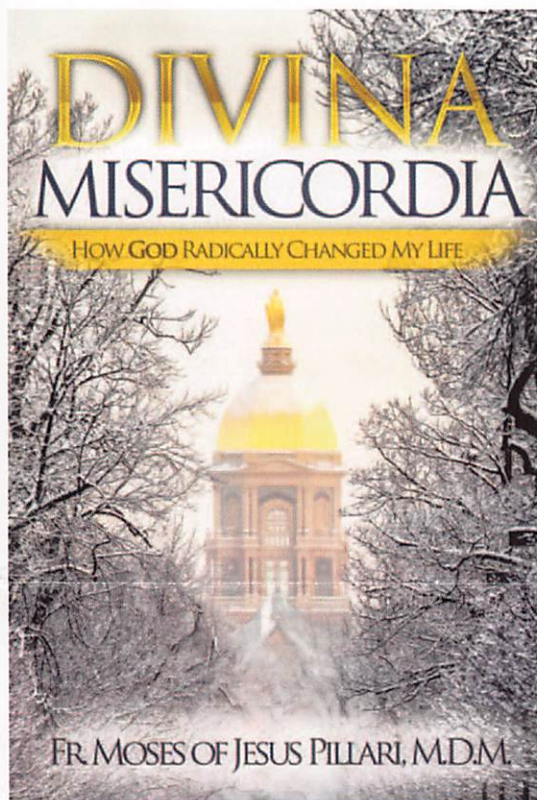
We have an author in our midst.

At the inspiration of the Lord, and with the encouragement of Fr. John Mary, Fr. Moses of Jesus has written and published an account of his spiritual journey. The book tells the story of his conversion, from his time as young student athlete at Notre Dame, majoring in business

and Japanese, to his life today as a monk in the Texas Hill Country. His book *DIVINA MISERICORDIA: How God Radically Changed My Life* is the simply told account of the loving and unexpected ways that God and the Blessed Mother manifested Themselves in his life. As the title announces, his current life is a radical departure from where the young Tony envisioned life would take him. His story recounts a journey filled with sudden detours, mysterious doorways to the mystical, foreign sojourns and an unexpected attraction to the Traditional Latin Mass.

DIVINA MISERICORDIA will capture the interest of the casual reader, and perhaps offer comfort and direction to the person following the unmapped terrain of their own spiritual journey.

For those who visit the Mission, the book will be available for purchase; otherwise by early April it will be available on Amazon.com. ♦





HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



HOLY THURSDAY April 2

- 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist
- Procession to the Altar of Repose
- Eucharistic Adoration until 10:30 p.m.
(bring a flashlight)

GOOD FRIDAY April 3

Day of silence and prayer

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 11:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

- 9:00 a.m. outdoor walking Way of the Cross
- Veneration of the Holy Cross - *Quiet Time*
- 1:00 p.m. Service of the Passion (LATIN)
- 3:30 p.m. Novena of Divine Mercy
- MISSION CLOSSES AT 5:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY April 4

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. till noon.

MORNING:

- 9:00 a.m. Rosary and meditations in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows
- Novena of Divine Mercy 10:30 a.m.
- MISSION CLOSSES AT NOON
(St. Joseph's Chapel will close at 11:00 a.m.)

EVENING (bring a flashlight)

- 10:30 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil (LATIN)

EASTER SUNDAY April 5

- 6:00 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil (ENGLISH)
- Breakfast Gathering

As Chaplain to the Traditional Latin Mass community of the Archdiocese, Fr. Moses will offer the following services at the Mission during the Triduum:

PASSIO ET MORTE DOMINI

A unique opportunity this Good Friday.... beginning at 1PM, we will offer a traditional chanted Service of the Passion, **entirely in Gregorian Chant, and so entirely in Latin**, with Latin-English booklets available to follow the readings and prayers.

The service will be **long: over two hours long**. The extended chants are meant to facilitate meditation on the great mystery of Our Lord's Passion and death—in some ways akin to the experience of a Holy Hour spent meditating on that great mystery. While this can be a rich spiritual experience, it will be long and may not be for everyone. For many of you our morning Way of the Cross might be more conducive to entering into these great mysteries.

MISSA SOLEMNIS VIGILIAE PASCHALIS

Beginning at 10:30PM on Holy Saturday Fr. Moses will be offering a Solemn Vigil Mass in the traditional Form—entirely in Latin with all of the chants in Gregorian Chant. It is a beautiful service, and one that has been requested by families in both San Antonio and Austin who are drawn to the Traditional Latin Mass, but is a long service—over two hours long. You are welcome to attend, but may find the Easter morning Mass—which will be primarily in English—more accessible. ♦



Mission of Divine Mercy
P.O. Box 1759
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Easter: It's not a day. It's a Season.

Most Catholics are acutely conscious of the forty days of Lent: the sober drama of Ash Wednesday that ends with the Alleluias of Easter. But too few are aware that the forty days of sorrow are followed by fifty days of joy. Easter is not a day, it's a Season! And whether or not one's daily life or human emotions experience a dramatic change, it is imperative to recognize the spiritual riches that rain down on us like waves of gold during these most grace-laden moments in the Church Year.

The Lamb has been sacrificed; the Gates of Eternal Life, closed for eons by Original Sin, have been thrown wide open; death and satan have been conquered by His Death; the Son has emerged from the tomb radiant with the glory of His Wounds, and mankind is at last restored to the Father.

*Anything and everything that is for our true good
will be granted by Heaven for the sake of those Wounds.*

While we may not be aware of this spiritual treasury at the human level, our souls do sense it. And they do not want us to go blindly through this time of Sacred Joy. During Eastertide we proclaim with the whole Mystical Body, "Christ is risen; truly He is risen."

Our Contact Information:

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Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Physical address:

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