

Mission of Divine Mercy

Eastertide 2018



“May the Light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.”

Solemn Prayer of the Paschal Vigil

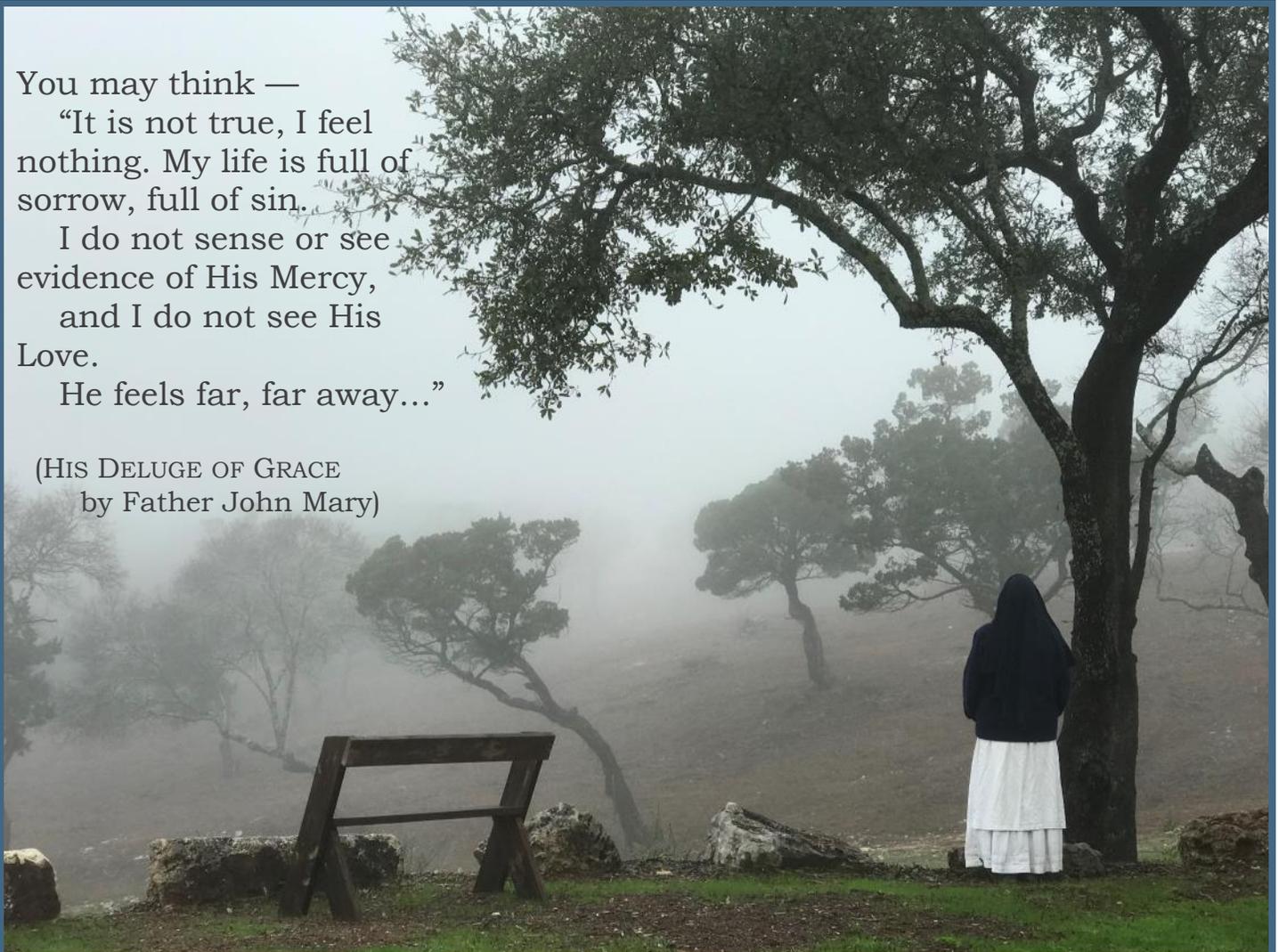
You may think —

“It is not true, I feel nothing. My life is full of sorrow, full of sin.

I do not sense or see evidence of His Mercy, and I do not see His Love.

He feels far, far away...”

(HIS DELUGE OF GRACE
by Father John Mary)



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday (Mar 29)

- 7:30 pm - Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist
- Eucharistic Adoration following Mass
- 10:30 pm - Vigil Ends and Mission closes

Good Friday (Mar 30)

- 9:00 am - Walking Way of the Cross (gather at tent)
- After the Way of the Cross (roughly 11am) there will be: confessions until 4pm and an opportunity to venerate the Relic of the True Cross at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 2:00 pm - Service of the Passion at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 3:30 pm - Novena of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 5:00 pm - Mission closes to public

Holy Saturday (Mar 31)

- 9:00 am - Meditation and Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 9 - 11:00 am - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 10:00 am - Novena of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph's Chapel
- 12:00 pm - Closes to public

Easter Sunday (Apr 1)

- 6:00 am - Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Joseph's Chapel
- Festive breakfast following Mass at OCC.
- 10:00 am - Novena and Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Save the Date!
April 8, 2018
Divine Mercy Sunday
See Page 12

HIS DELUGE OF GRACE:

A Meditation on Divine Mercy Sunday

From Fr. John Mary

God is our good Father, our *Abba*, a loving Father who is moved to infinite tenderness by the love of His children, by a single smile, a single thought of love, by the merest effort to please Him; and by the innumerable wounds that His children bear.

God says that where sin abounds, Grace over-abounds (Rom.5:20). That may sound contradictory, but it is True.

When we look around, we see how much sin, confusion, heresy and hatred there is. We can see how God is constantly being attacked, mocked and laughed at. Even worse, forgotten and ignored. And with what *lukewarmness* He is *followed*.

How much pain this must cause our Good Father, our *Abba*, Who loves us so very much, and for Whom we are the little children, the beloved ones.

Consider then what the overabundance of Grace must be if it must overpower such presence of sin in the world and in His Church.

It must be a Deluge of Grace.

AN UNPRECEDENTED, INCONCEIVABLE DELUGE OF GRACE AND MERCY

Scripture provides an example. In the time of Noah sin had become so dark, so pervasive, so present in everything, that an unimaginable deluge was needed to cleanse the earth and “start over,” so to speak.

Could this deluge be a foreshadowing of what God would like to send to His children today– an unprecedented, inconceivable deluge of Grace and Mercy, to flood the hearts of His children so that we may be cleansed, healed and restored? So that we can better distinguish between good and evil? So that we will choose to follow Him?

Jesus spoke to His beloved Faustina of a deluge of Grace occurring on each Divine Mercy Sunday, the day on which the floodgates of Mercy are opened.

***"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy....On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened."* (#699 Diary of Divine Mercy)**

He has given us this Day and His Promise as a sign for us of what is coming, as a ray of Hope and Light to give us the strength needed to stand up bravely in His army.

And He gives them to us so that we remember that HE is our Abba, our Merciful Father, infinitely tender, ever aware of each heartbeat of ours.

Yes, each heartbeat.

This might seem impossible to you. How could HE be aware of each heartbeat? Why would HE *want* to be aware?

It is HIS LOVE that makes Him do it. HIS LOVE that pervades and surrounds every instant of our lives. How difficult--- perhaps impossible--- it is for us His little ones to grasp the unfathomable greatness of His Love and Mercy.

In fact, you may think – “It is not true. I feel nothing. My life is full of sorrow, full of sin. I do not sense or see evidence of His Mercy, and I do not see His Love. He feels far, far away...”



Remember, His Love cannot be bound or understood by our limited humanity, by our senses that are subject to the inclination to sin.

In fact, we can only see a part of reality. HE can only show us a drop of Light; we cannot bear more yet.

His Love, His Mercy, can only be received through Faith, through Trust.

The more you make an act of your will to believe Him when HE says that HE LOVES YOU and that HE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS, even if you feel the contrary, the more His Mercy and the Light of His Love can enter the depths of your soul, filling it until you are inundated by this Light; and all fear, all mistrust is banished, flooded out of your heart.

Then with every heartbeat you will cry out to Him: “Abba! Father!” and there will be love, tenderness, adoration, obedience, perfect Trust, joy and peace in each of those cries.

This is what HE WANTS FOR YOU: HIS PRESENCE IN YOU; HIS LOVE IN YOU.

Give Him this Joy. Receive this outpouring of His Love with love and trust and gratitude.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a day of Grace and Love, given to convince you of His infinite Mercy; given to you as purification, that His strength may be in you; given to you that you may begin to live Paradise in your heart.

And how much you need this, HOW MUCH.

HE sees your grief, sorrows, struggles, fears, and HE wants to alleviate them. But only through our Faith in His Mercy can HE do this.

BELIEVE Him.

BELIEVE His Love.

BELIEVE your Abba Who loves you beyond measure and beyond reason.



~



ALL THE WEARY CHILDREN OF THE FATHER

How does one sufficiently alert all the weary Children of the Father so that on Divine Mercy Sunday they will find their way Home?

How does one manage to spread the news of this most phenomenal Grace?

What does the Lord ask of us on this Feast?

That having gone to Confession and cleansed our soul of all serious sin, we attend Mass and receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

What does the Lord give in return?

The complete forgiveness of all our sins; and the remission of all temporal punishment due to them. (Diary, #699)

Do you need to re-read that? Please do.

Because every year as we prepare the spring newsletter we ask ourselves whether we've really understood this correctly. And every year we go to the Diary, the documents, the websites, and double-check it all. And every year the answer is the same:

YES! IT'S REALLY TRUE. IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE BUT IT'S REALLY TRUE. GOD HAS REALLY SAID THIS AND GOD WILL REALLY DO THIS!

This grace is comparable to that of a newly baptized soul! We who have grown old in our sins are restored interiorly to a Baptismal Innocence. If we met death in this state we would go straight into the Arms of God.

Is there anything else you have to do on April 8th that would compete with this? Is there anywhere else that the Lord would have you be?

None of us knows if we will be alive for Divine Mercy Sunday 2019. Perhaps for some of us this will be our last celebration of this Feast on earth.

SO COME TO DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY; AT YOUR PARISH, OR AT THE MISSION, OR AT ANY CATHOLIC CHURCH WHEREVER YOU HAPPEN TO BE. BUT COME!

HE WAITS FOR YOU....

~



“Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind
all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Mary”



Stations of the Cross
Good Friday 2017

and especially poor sinners,
part of Jesus.”

First Day of the Divine Mercy Novena

TRIDUUM RETREAT 2018

This is a very simple retreat that begins the evening of Holy Thursday and concludes Easter Sunday morning. **There are no talks.** There is a simple orientation on Thursday evening and a concluding session with Fr. John Mary after breakfast on Easter Sunday.

The retreat consists in each individual living with us the liturgical services of these days (see the Holy Week Schedule on page 2), which are also open to the public. We encourage retreatants to spend the rest of the time in silence, taking full advantage of the Mission grounds and meditating on the mysteries of these hours with the help of the Holy Scriptures, the Diary of St. Faustina, and *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* by Maria Valtorta. (For more information on this please see our website.)

Retreatants are free to come and go as they wish within the indicated hours. But we encourage them to live the retreat in its entirety as much as possible, so as to accompany Our Lord during His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection. During certain hours the Mission will be open only for retreatants.

The only meals included in the retreat are a dinner on Holy Thursday, a light lunch on Good Friday, and a public breakfast on Easter Sunday morning. For all other meals retreatants are welcome to bring their own food or go to local restaurants. Snacks and beverages will be made available to retreatants throughout the retreat. Unfortunately, we cannot offer lodging. In the past, people coming from far away have stayed at local hotels.

The cost of Retreat: \$30

For more information and to register please visit our website

www.missionofdivinemeracy.com or call Mariano and Sarah Granados at (830) 302-9707.

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AN END TO THE GRIEVING SEASON

On Christmas Eve, 2009, I gave birth to our ninth child, Rebecca Grace. She was six weeks early, weighing in at only two pounds. The NICU nurses quickly named her the “feisty” one. Once she was big enough to come home she thrived and had no health issues.

Then in April of 2013, after collapsing in my arms followed by a trip to the emergency room, we received news that would shake any parent to their core.

“Your daughter has an inoperable brain tumor.”

We were told her condition was very dire and probably terminal. There would be no cure, but we hoped beyond hope through the thirty-three radiation treatments and chemo she would undergo. God gave us eight more months.

We decided early on that we would not be on a “death watch.” We chose to give her a world full of joy, happiness, laughter, love and above all, faith. Faith that God was in control, that He had a plan. It seemed though that SHE comforted US.

In November, after a routine MRI, she took a turn for the worse. We took her to the ER and rather quickly came to the realization that the end of her life was approaching. Within hours we were contacting our Priest to perform Last Rites. It was also crucial to get all of her siblings to the hospital to say their final goodbyes. All of her siblings arrived. As we sat with Rebecca we held her, singing her favorite songs softly in her ear. The moment was quickly approaching. My husband and I laid with her in bed, wrapped in her favorite “Dora” blanket. Her face washed from our tears as we whispered for her to go to God. November 17th, 2013 at 8:00 pm she entered God’s Kingdom. From our arms to God’s.



Rebecca Grace
2009—2013

She died a week before Thanksgiving, followed by her birthday on Christmas Eve, followed by Christmas. The loss was devastating. Over the next few years I would enter what I called my “grieving season.” It started with my birthday in October and didn’t end until the New year. I simply accepted that this was a lifetime sentence that I had never asked for, and I clung to my faith that God and Rebecca would see me through.

In September, 2017, I registered for my third EWJ retreat at the Mission. Because I had already made two retreats I was put on the waiting list, so that they could give priority to those who hadn’t made one. It was up to God to determine if He wanted me there. The night before the retreat was to begin, I was notified that there was an open spot for me.

I arrived Thursday night and started to settle in, but I didn’t sleep well. Friday morning came and all day I just felt cranky. I couldn’t relax or focus. My mind just

wouldn't shut off, filled with thoughts of the "work" that would be awaiting me upon my return. I simply surrendered to the fact that I wasn't going to receive any great grace on this retreat. I sat in on all the talks, all of which I had heard twice already, hoping that I would gain something "new" from them.

My favorite talk was the one called "The Desert." Without a doubt, my greatest *desert* was losing Rebecca. I knew all too well the feeling of complete abandonment and soul crushing loss.

We were invited to write down our hurt and sufferings. Then afterwards we went to the chapel to burn our sorrow, turning it all over to God. As I wrote all about Rebecca and the pain I continued to suffer, I focused my thoughts on what God could possibly give me at this retreat this time.

But the more I tried to turn my thoughts to Him, the more Rebecca was the only thing on my mind. I would tell her in my thoughts to "be still" and let me focus on hearing God. But her voice called to me over and over: "Momma, Momma...look at me, listen to me."

I went into the chapel and burned my sufferings. I sat in the pew alone with my tears and closed my eyes. Rebecca was back again, and this time I simply surrendered. Then one simple image was planted in my mind. It was Rebecca's silhouette. To the right of her was Our Lady, and to the left was Our Lord, each holding her hand. I heard the simple words, "Momma, your grieving season is over."

That phrase repeated over and over in my mind. I felt calm. I felt peaceful. I felt her. I felt Our Lady and Our Lord washing over me and giving me comfort.

Saturday morning came and I awakened to this image of Rebecca. I understood God's purpose for my being at this retreat.

At lunch on Sunday we were invited to share our retreat experience. I was hesitant but decided it was worth sharing. On returning home I shared my amazing experience with my husband.

As I write these words it has been several months since the end of the retreat. I have lived through what would have been my grieving season, but this year I experienced God's Healing grace and not the familiar grief. Thanks be to God.

Rebecca Grace, pray for us.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Dawn Chauvin

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Divine Mercy Sunday April 8



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 AM GATES OPEN

CONFESSION AT ST. JOSEPH
CHAPEL (11:00 – 5:00 PM)

INDIVIDUAL VENERATION OF
DIVINE MERCY IMAGE
BEGINS AT TEOCALLI

2:00 PM HOLY MASS AT TEOCALLI

THE CHAPLET WILL BE
RECITED AFTER MASS
CONCLUDES

VENERATION OF THE IMAGE
OF DIVINE MERCY RESUMES

5:30 PM MISSION CLOSES

IF YOU ARE COMING ...

Welcome... and please be prepared for our rough terrain and outdoor conditions. Think of the day as a pilgrimage and the inconveniences as an added opportunity to thank God for His great mercy.

There will be limited seating which we will prioritize for the elderly and those with special needs. You may want to bring your own chair, blanket for the ground, or be prepared to stand.

We will be renting extra golf carts for the day to transport those who need help. We ask everyone who is able to please walk and save the golf carts for those who truly need it: the elderly, people with health conditions, and mothers with little children.

Depending on the weather you will probably want to have some sun protection and drinking water.

Carpooling is also appreciated.

**“O Blood and Water
which gushed forth
from the
Heart of Jesus
as a Fount of Mercy
for us,
we trust in You.”**

**THE PROMISE MADE BY CHRIST
and
THE INDULGENCE INSTITUTED BY
ST. JOHN PAUL II**

Our Lord’s Promise to St. Faustina is part of a private revelation. But St. John Paul, during his papacy, also created a Plenary Indulgence of Divine Mercy. While Catholics are not obligated to believe in private revelations, they believe by faith that if they fulfill the conditions of an Indulgence they will certainly receive what the Pope has promised: **full remission of the temporal punishment due to their forgiven sins.**

Conditions For Achieving the Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday:*

- A sacramental confession
- Eucharistic communion
- Prayers for the Pope’s intentions
- Take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or , in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the Tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. “Merciful Jesus, I trust in You.”)

* It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested.--From EWTN website.

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Divine Mercy Sunday is fast approaching and we are making preparations to welcome our largest crowd ever. Last year we hit the limit on what St. Joseph's Chapel could accommodate. That is why this year we will celebrate Mass at the Teocalli, our new outdoor sanctuary on Tepeyac Hill. **The Teocalli still won't be completely finished and the outdoor conditions will be rather challenging, so please forgive and be prepared for the inconvenience.** Confessions will be heard at St. Joseph's.

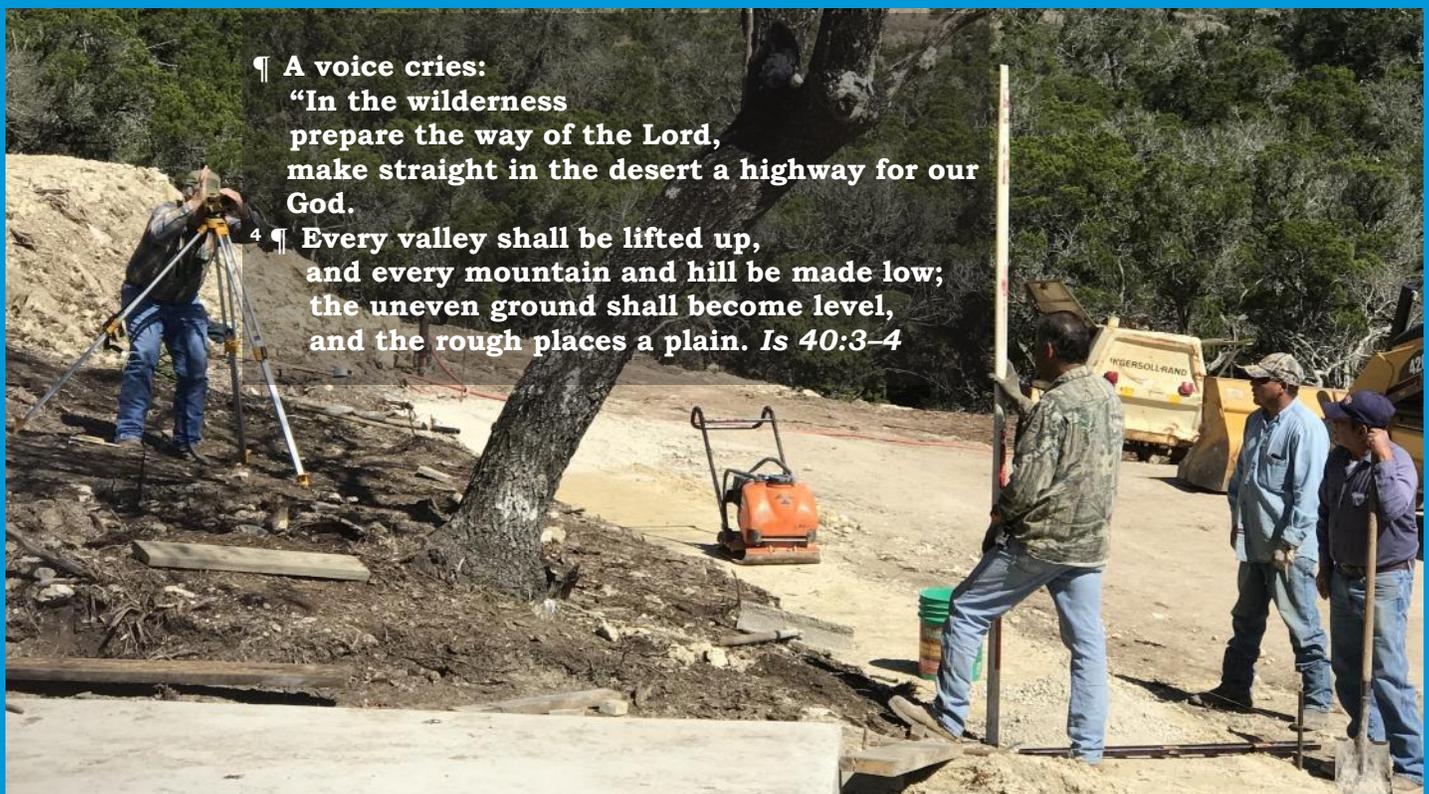
Work continues on Tepeyac Hill in short excited bursts, followed by periods of inactivity ... all depending on availability of workers, equipment, funds and weather. We have just entered another quick burst of activity, with the pouring of concrete for St. Anne's Pavilion which is intended to accommodate people with accessibility issues. It will be located up next to the Teocalli. We expect St. Anne's to be ready (just in time!) for Divine Mercy Sunday.

We do not have the funds at this time to complete the Sacristy and Vesting building. We are looking for a few "angels" to come forward and provide some of the estimated \$250,000 needed to finish the project.



From the Desk of Peter:

I want to offer special thanks to John Weber. First, for his direction and skill in helping us accomplish so many road improvements. Thanks to John, Dean Word, the Ethridge Co., and a generous donor, our roads are wider, straighter, and in many places water actually runs underneath them instead of over them! John has also been invaluable in helping re-shape Tepeyac Hill in front of the Teocalli and preparing the site for the pavilion and sacristy. He has spent many a day "shooting grades" and many a sleepless night drawing up designs. God bless you, John!



¶ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness
prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.
¶ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain. *Is 40:3-4*

In January we began offering a “Giving Kiosk” in response to those who prefer to donate by credit card.

Our operating funds continue to be a challenge; especially with all the extra building going on. We continue to operate in the “red” almost every month. My constant battle is looking for ways to cut costs and increase recurring donations. If you are able, I ask you to consider starting or increasing a recurring donation. Even a small increase can be a big help! Details for setting this up can be found on our MDM website.

God Bless,
Peter



Steve Magdich, Marcus Ethridge and John Weber discuss the latest logistical challenge....

BEING BETHANY

“I try always to be a Bethany for Jesus, so that He may rest here after all His labor.” -- St. Faustina
(#735 Diary of Divine Mercy)

When Jesus was weary in body and heart, He found rest and friendship at Bethany, the home of Martha, Mary Magdalene and Lazarus.

When St. Faustina prayed about making her heart a place where Jesus could find comfort and welcome she thought of Bethany.

The sense of “Bethany” came to us when we were choosing a name for an association of the friends of MDM. These friends include those who welcomed us to the Hill Country many years ago, and made us feel at home. It also includes people both near and far away, even those who have never set foot on the Mission property, who feel a connection with the Mission and have provided us with comfort and support... physical, spiritual or financial. They are our “Bethany.”

If you would like to be a friend of the Mission, to offer your prayerful support of the Mission, and to be included in the intentions of each Sunday’s Mass, just go to our website: missionofdivinemeracy.org, or call 830-302-2238.



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



Mailing address:

Mission of Divine Mercy
P.O. Box 1759,
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
www.missionofdivinemercury.com
mdm@missionofdivinemercury.org

**Our Phone number
has changed!!!**

Physical address:

Mission La Divina Misericordia
1531 Indian Chief Trail,
New Braunfels, TX 78132
(830) 302-2238 NEW!!!!
(830) 905-4515 To Be Discontinued



Remember
Divine Mercy Sunday
April 8, 2018

Mass on October 13, 2017