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Project Newsletter Mission La Divina Misericordia

Volume II, Issue 2

March 2005

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**Don Maxwell &
Dave Sommers
Land Development
Needs
(See Inserted Letter)**

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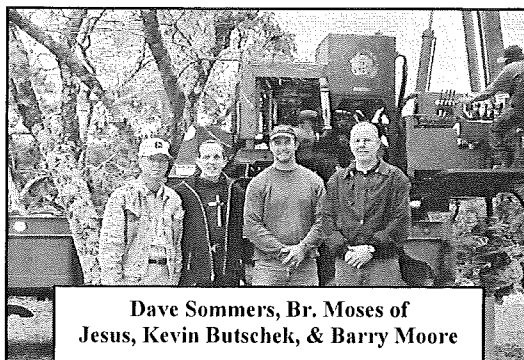
Cathy Drolet
Financial & Publication
Committees
(830) 626-2227

The First Liturgical Building Breaks Ground

March 19th – Feast of St. Joseph. As the sun broke over the horizon on the feast of St. Joseph, there was a distinctive hum of heavy equipment laboring in the air at *Mission La Divina Misericordia*. As Father John Mary Foster was celebrating Saturday morning Mass, the "sound of progress" could have easily dampened the mood of the more than fifty worshipers gathered. However, the general consensus was one of enthusiasm and anticipation that a big step, a new beginning, was being taken as construction got underway on the first permanent structure at the property. Progress has

reached a fast pace to complete a pavilion for masses and gatherings that take place at the property.

In Father's homily, he related how significant it was that the humble construction at the property were beginning precisely on the feast of St. Joseph, who sets an example of holiness for us, particularly as a man, a spouse, a father and a worker. "We will be entrusting the work done at Mission La Divina Misericordia to St. Joseph", said Father John.



Dave Sommers, Br. Moses of Jesus, Kevin Butschek, & Barry Moore

Considering the stepped up pace of activity at the property, there may be a lot more days of noisy worship. Led by Barry Moore, the executive director of the project at Mission La Divina Misericordia, there are several key contributors putting in long hours of work planning and completing the many land projects

(Continued pg 3-Ground Breaking)

Thanks to Paco & Mauricio San Clemente for the use of their drilling rig.

You are Invited! Sts. Peter and Paul Parish is hosing a special celebration for Divine Mercy Sunday. All are welcome!

The Mission of Divine Mercy will have a special celebration for *Divine Mercy Sunday*.

This special celebration will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish and begin at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday April 3rd, and end at 5:00 with refreshments.

The Mission of Divine

Mercy - would like to extend their heart felt gratitude to Msgr. Eugene O'Callaghan for hosting this special event.

Additionally, proceeds from the second collection at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, on Divine Mercy weekend, are dedicated to *Mission La Divina Misericordia*.

Divine Mercy Sunday Activities

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Solemn Benediction
Veneration of the Image

St. Michael Squadron Commitment Ceremony

Feb 13th: At *Mission La Divina Misericordia*, under a sparkling blue sky, 15 high school and college-aged young men of the Saint Michael Squadron confidently processed to their seats in the group's first Membership Commitment Ceremony.

This event was scheduled after months of prayerful consideration for a deeper prayer life, and regular attendance at squadron meetings by these young men. All events are under the auspices of the Mission of Divine Mercy.

Brother Moses set the mood for the afternoon activities by singing songs of praise accompanied by Brother Joseph on guitar. Offering a parent's perspective, adult Squadron member Tim Drolet introduced the young members by reflecting on his experience and impression of working with them.

Father John Mary summed up the reason for the Squadron's December 2003 formation by reading to the assembled family and friends from that Sunday's gospel: Matthew 4:1-11, on the temptation of Christ; where Jesus is led into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Christ's final response to the Devil's persistence is, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and only Him shall you serve."

"The St. Michael Squadron is like a mustard seed," Father John Mary explained; "they are just beginning,

but we expect good things from them." He said that their commitment shouldn't complicate an already busy schedule, but because of a raging spiritual battle where Satan offers all the riches of the world to those who will worship him, God must come first.



"These guys are in a time of preparation," Father John Mary said, "preparation for right now and preparation for eternity." He added, "School doesn't prepare young people for eternity, and that is what really matters. These young men were invited to make this commitment—to take time out from their busy schedules. Sports and other activities are great but God has to come first. How well are young people being prepared for the spiritual battle, which is for all eternity?"

"Why are you looking for me, didn't you know I had to be about my

Father's business," Father John Mary continued. "Even Jesus had to remind His parents that God is first. He was submissive and obedient to his parents, but He knew who came first."

The fifteen members officially made their commitment by kneeling and reading a prayer together while those present were asked to pray silently for them. Stating the awareness of an ongoing spiritual battle, they committed until the feast of Pentecost to a daily attempt to be united with the Blessed Trinity in prayer and fidelity; to help build up Christian fellowship; to be a witness of the Lord to others, by example; and to entrust themselves to the intercession of the St. Michael Squadron patron saints—the Blessed Mother and St. Michael.

They followed the prayer recitation by singly approaching a podium to sign their commitment statement and receive a St. Michael medal from Father John Mary. Demonstrating a willingness to pick up their cross and follow Christ, the Squadron members regrouped to lift and bear a large wooden cross while Brother Moses lead the attendees in singing, "Here I Am."

Father John Mary closed by requesting meditation and silent prayer for , "the journey ahead for these dedicated young men."

Article & Photo by: Cynthia Frater

Modest Dress for Mission La Divina Misericordia

Below we offer a copy of the request for modest dress that will appear as you enter the Mission property. We want to alert you to this and invite you to participate in the movement of reverence and charity. (Romans 12: 1-2)

"This is consecrated land. Out of love and respect of Our Lord, one another and for ourselves we are invited to dress modestly: please refrain from wearing shorts; sleeveless shirts; hemlines or slits above the knee; or any tight, low cut or provocative clothing.

We know that this requires an effort and is at odds with the prevailing culture. But we also know that this sacrifice is especially pleasing to the Lord; and that He will use our witness as a powerful instrument of grace and healing for all who come here."

Calendar of Events

Saturday Mass: Each Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at *Mission La Divina Misericordia* except April 16th & June 11th.

Thursday Evening Holy Hour: Weekly at 7:00 p.m.

Spiritual Direction Talk: First Thursday of each month following Holy Hour.

Encounter with Jesus Retreats: Men's Retreat April 15-17th.

St. Michael's Squadron: Please contact the Mission for more information.

FUNDRAISING PROJECT
MISSION LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA



MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY
301 MAIN PLAZA, BOX 301, NEW BRAUNFELS TEXAS 78130

March 21, 2005

*"Them I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
Their holocausts and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar;
For my house shall be called a house of
prayer for all people"*

Isaiah 56:7

Dear Friend of the Mission of Divine Mercy,

The Mission of Divine Mercy has been celebrating Mass every Saturday, during Lent, at *Mission La Divina Misericordia*. The response has been encouraging. The Mission of Divine Mercy will continue Saturday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. This celebration has had humble beginnings; however, with the onset of spring rain, and summer sun, the need for a more formal building is immediate.

Father John Mary, after prayerful consideration with the Divine Mercy Community and their Lay Core Team, recently authorized the construction of Mission La Divina Misericordia's first permanent liturgical structure - a pavilion.

This pavilion, the first construction dedicated to the Mission's spiritual objectives, will allow Mass and other celebrations to be conducted in a beautiful outdoor setting without the current risk of inclement weather. It will also allow events in warmer months when the sun can be bothersome. It is a modest beginning in the property's development process that will allow greater flexibility and scheduling of Mission events while building plans are prayerfully developed for traditional structures.

But despite the pavilion's humble nature, it does not come without a price. The cost of the basic structure is estimated at \$35,000. With the outdoor masses, and other activities, there is an immediate need for this building. The contractor is busy working to meet this construction objective while we, the Mission of Divine Mercy's lay supporters, are working to meet the financial objective.

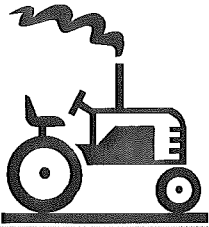
Will you please give some prayerful consideration to this immediate need at Mission La Divina Misericordia? Your generous contribution, helping The Mission of Divine Mercy secure its first permanent structure, may be something you feel called to do. Because of the fast approaching summer months, would it be possible for you to quickly mail your donation (please see the pledge registry located on page 4 of this newsletter) or phone to make a credit card donation? Cathy Drolet can discretely handle all credit card donations; her number is (830) 626-2227.

We are praying you will generously join us in ensuring a fruitful start to the development of the Mission of Divine Mercy's property, *Mission La Divina Misericordia*! And thank you for your generosity in helping The Mission of Divine Mercy further the celebration of Jesus' Mercy for us all.

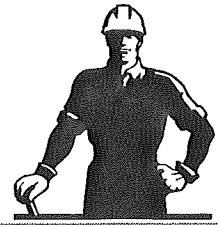
Please phone my cell, 830-620-8777, if you have a question or suggestion for this campaign.

Yours through Christ's Mercy,

Don Maxwell
Don Maxwell
donm@chevynb.com



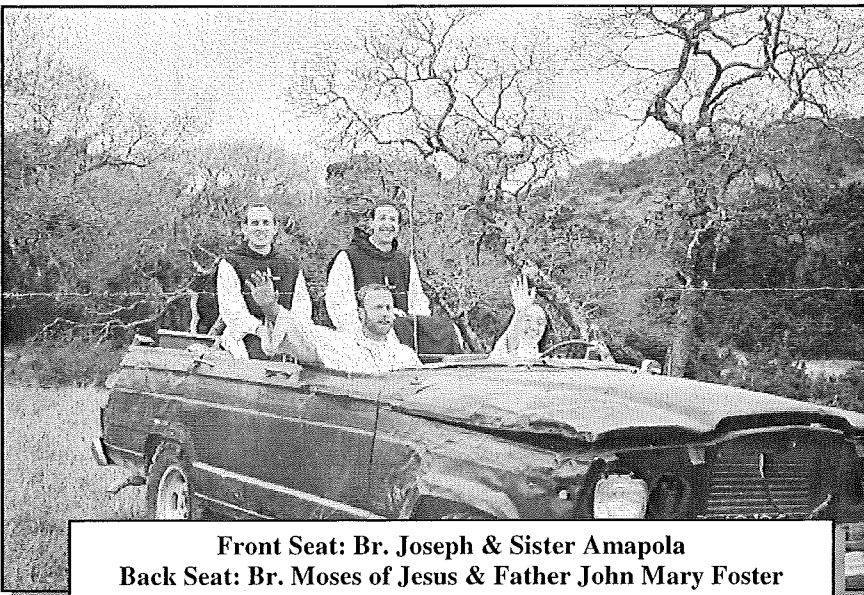
Equipment "Wish List" Project Insert



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Presently, at *Mission La Divina Misericordia*, we have a truck and jeep that have been donated to the Mission. These are a great help in doing the many tasks in clearing the land and making it accessible for visitors. However, there is more equipment needed in order to be prepared for summer and to continually maintain the property.



Front Seat: Br. Joseph & Sister Amapola
Back Seat: Br. Moses of Jesus & Father John Mary Foster
Surveying Mission La Divina Misericordia in their very own 1961 convertible "off road" Jeep

The following is a list of miscellaneous items that would be a huge benefit to *Mission La Divina Misericordia*. If you have, or know of anyone, that would be interested in donating any of the items listed below—please contact me as soon as possible. My information is: Dave Sommers (830) 626-3557.

Heavy Equipment

Tractor with front-end loader and brush cutting/grass cutting attachment for the rear. (Preferably, 30 to 50 HP). Because of the hills and the difficulty moving around *Mission La Divina Misericordia*, it would be best if it were four-wheel drive.

Utility Vehicle such as an ATV that would seat four people. This is needed to move the handicapped visitors to the areas of the outdoor Chapel and other dedicated locations in the hills of the property.

Yard Equipment

Chipper. Presently we have large piles of cedar, which have been cleared from many locations, lying around the property. There is a need for mulch that can be generated by the use of a chipper. Because of the large amount of wood, a 12 inch chipper would be ideal for our needs.

Chainsaws and Tree Trimmers are always handy to have ready to use for workday volunteers.

Building Equipment

Lumber of all sizes and plywood. We have a barn and camp house that need repairs. We also need storage sheds for the equipment.

Miscellaneous Equipment

Ceiling & Floor Standing Fans for the camp house.

Kitchen Cabinets: The cabinets in the camp house are in bad condition and need to be replaced.

Hot Water Heater. We need a small heater 5 / 10 gallons. Presently there is no hot water for dishes, etc.

In closing, any help with these matters would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your consideration and time.

In His Mercy, Dave Sommers

Ground Breaking

progress. John Weber, Dave Sommers and Kevin Butschek have taken on the assignment of management of property construction and facility development.

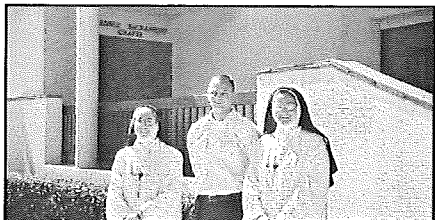
In the near future, it is hoped that the property can be readied for the type of ministry outreach that the Mission of Divine Mercy wants to offer to the entire archdiocese – a place open for prayer, group and individual retreats, Encounter with Jesus weekends, and other worship activities. The long-term goal is to build a Retreat Center that would eventually reach out to those from all over the country. In order to accomplish these goals, the continuous outpouring of prayer by all of those who have so faithfully supported the Mission of Divine Mercy will be needed – even if it means doing it over the loud hum of machinery!

The Mission of Divine Mercy will continue to celebrate Saturday morning mass at 8:00 a.m. at Mission La Divina Misericordia for the coming months. Please feel free to come out and experience this beautiful place of worship that is truly a gift from God. Article by Tim Drolet

St. Pius X Invites the Mission of Divine Mercy to Speak at Masses

One day last fall Martin Williams, of St. Pius X Parish, was visiting New Braunfels and happened to meet Father John Mary and Sister Magdalene.

"At first I thought they were from another order, since I had not seen their new habits before" said Martin. "I soon learned of the Mission's desire to purchase a piece of land, and I wanted to help."



Sr. Amapola, Martin Williams, & Sr. Magdalene at St. Pius X Parish in San Antonio

"I spoke with my pastor, Fr. Francis McHugh, and he allowed me to speak before the parish council" said Martin. "The result was that St. Pius X extended an invitation to the Mission to speak at our Masses on March 12th & 13th. Additionally, the second collection on Divine Mercy Sunday will be donated to *Mission La Divina Misericordia!*"

The Mission of Divine Mercy extends a warm "thank you" to Fr. Francis, Martin Williams, and the parishioners at St. Pius X for their hospitality and generosity!

Tamales for "FUN" RAISING

Carmen Morales, Kathie Koegle, Dorothy Matschek, Betty Paine, and Carol Stein love to make tamales! They love it so much that they decided to have a tamale sale and donate all proceeds to *Mission La Divina Misericordia*.



Kathie Koegle, Betty Paine, Carmen Morales, & Carol Stein

Carmen Morales had come up with the idea when she wanted to help Mission La Divina Misericordia become a reality. She wasn't very good at chopping down cedar trees but she was very good at making tamales.

When they needed a big enough kitchen to handle the 200 dozen tamales they were planning; Jim and Pam Behling offered their kitchen at Deer Creek Camp, located in Medina, and the "Fun" Raising was on!

These ladies were able to raise over \$1,100 for *Mission La Divina Misericordia*, as well as to feed a small army of hungry Sts. Peter & Paul parishioners. Carmen was able to present the check to Father on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Another tamale sale is being scheduled for the fall. If you can help, please call Carmen at 608-0485; she would be glad to hear from you! ☺

Knights of Columbus Supports Mission La Divina Misericordia

The Knights of Columbus, Council #4183, support Mission La Divina Misericordia! The Knights have donated \$1,000 and 500 man hours.

With the 500 man hours, the Knights will install gabions filled with natural rock. This will provide the first step for erosion control for the creek bed. These enhancements will provide a homogenous setting to the rustic abeyance of the property.

Many thanks to all Brother Knights who have volunteered their time and muscle!

Brother Knights from Council #4183 and "Abby"



"Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; Their holocausts and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples".

Isaiah 56:7



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New Braunfels, Texas 78130
(830) 227-5257

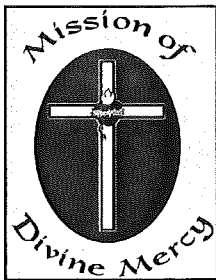
We are on the Web!

Website:

www.missionofdivinemeracy.com

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New Braunfels TX
Permit # 66

*We would be happy to
pray for you and your
intentions.
Please write
to us at the
address listed
above.*



Mission La Divina Misericordia-Development Project Pledge Registry
301 Main Plaza, Box 301
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

*Please return this form to the address listed above.
Remember, all donations are tax deductible*

- ☐ One-Time \$ _____, to be paid on this date: _____. *Your primary financial responsibility is to your home parish, however any financial aid you can give would be most appreciated.*
- ☐ Monthly \$ _____, for a total of _____ months.
- ☐ Other payment schedule, in the amount of \$ _____, Quarterly, Semi-Annually, or Annually.
- ☐ Other; I would like to offer my financial assistance in the following way(s) stocks, bonds, real property, vehicle(s), etc.
- ☐ Other, please have someone contact me at the number(s) listed below:

Contact Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Number _____
Alternate Telephone Number(s) _____ e-mail _____