

Holy Week and
Eastertide, 2007 A.D.

Mission of Divine Mercy

Three Realizations

By Sister Magdalene

Years ago, during a period of particular grace in my life, I read a vivid account by an Italian mystic of Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion. Oddly, despite the suffering and the brutality of what she described, I closed the book thinking, "That's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

During that period someone asked, "If you could be transported to one place or event, no matter where or at what time in history, what would it be?" And I became aware of the fact that it would be the Crucifixion. Under the impulse of the grace in my life at that time I thought, "I would like to be there for Jesus beneath His Cross." That was **my first realization**. But the **second** followed almost immediately.

Thinking that, I was suddenly struck by the fact that that was exactly what I was able to do each day in the Mass; that at the time of the Consecration the Sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary was once again made present. And that, if I chose, I **could** be daily at the foot of the Cross for Him – to adore, to console, to repent.

The emotion of that awareness did not last, but the knowledge did.

Fast forward several years later. In many different prophecies – whether from the Book of Daniel, the Gospel of Matthew or Mark, or from the mystical tradition within the Church – there is the warning of a time when the "Abomination of Desolation" will be housed in the Sanctuary of the Lord.

We don't know exactly what this means. Some see this as a time of extreme global physical persecution when the sanctuaries will be profaned and

it will be impossible for Catholics to receive the Eucharist.

Others see this as a time of universal spiritual darkness when the Eucharist will be understood merely as a symbolic gesture, thus negating the authentic Sacrifice of the Mass.

In both of these cases the scenario is horrific. (Padre Pio said that the earth could exist more easily without the sun than without the Sacrifice of the Mass.) And it was in reflecting on this that I had **my third realization**:

"Eternal Father, we 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."¹

Crucifixion; Eucharist; Chaplet.

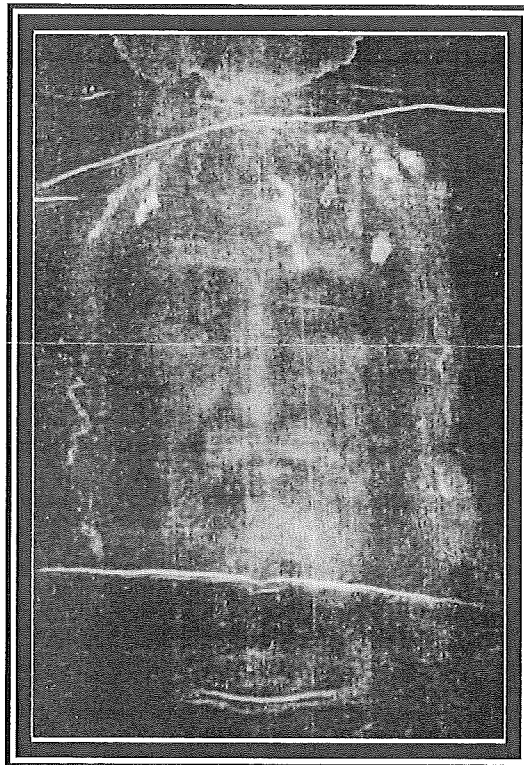
The Sacrifice of Calvary;
the Sacrifice of the Mass;
the Prayer of the Chaplet.

In the Chaplet we unite ourselves to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is Itself a union with Jesus' Sacrifice on Calvary. We the faithful are able to do spiritually what the Priest does sacramentally – to offer to the Father the Sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of all mankind.

We who are sinners have been given a secret weapon more powerful than all evil to wield against the encroaching darkness....

"For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have Mercy on us and on the whole world."² ♦

¹ Chaplet of Divine Mercy as revealed by Jesus to Saint Faustina.
² Ibid.



A Sacerdotal Year!

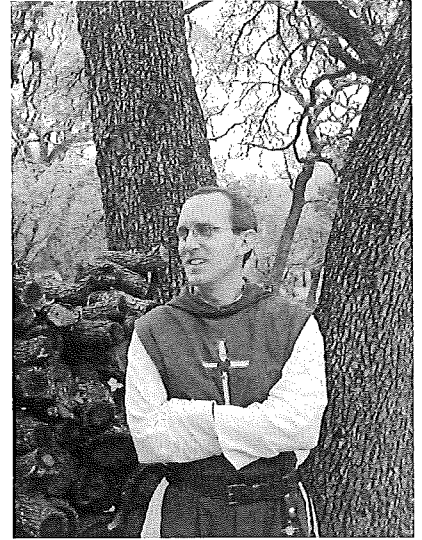
Saturday, May 19th ~

With gratitude and joy, by the authority of His Excellency Archbishop José Gómez, we announce the ordination of Brother Moses of Jesus to the transitional Diaconate.

The Ordination Mass will take place at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark's in San Antonio and you are welcome to join us for this event. *Seating, however, will be limited* since Br. Moses will be one of twenty-seven permanent and transitional Deacons to be ordained that day.

Our Community Celebration will occur the next day **Sunday, May 20th**. **Brother Moses will officiate as Deacon at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Mission** and lunch will follow. All of you are invited! (If able to stay for lunch please **RSVP** to Judith Mackie at (830) 629-0401.)

Please God, within this next year we will celebrate his Priestly Ordination. ♦



Saturday, June 16th:

*We give praise to the Most Blessed Trinity
for the Priesthood of Father John Mary.*

On the **Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saturday, June 16th**, we will celebrate the **TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY of Father John Mary's Priestly Ordination**. The Mass for this beautiful Feast and Celebration will be offered at 9:00 a.m. (one hour later than our regular Saturday Mass) and a reception will follow.

Please unite with us in thanking the Father for this Gift that keeps on giving. And please protect and strengthen Father John Mary and Brother Moses with your prayer. ♦

Another Milestone . . . Amici Christi MDM

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 15th, at the end of the 3:00 p.m. Mass, thirty-eight men and women will mark their entry into the novitiate year of the first group of *Amici Christi MDM* [Friends of Christ MDM].

This is the branch of MDM for lay persons living in the world. Some of you having been eager for this since our arrival in 2001 and we are glad that we are finally able to realize this vital part of the Lord's plan. While this group has existed in spirit among many of our friends for a long time, the entry into novitiate officially marks the **formal beginning of this branch**. ♦



MERCY STORY: *Rest in Peace, George Linn*

A year ago we met architectural designer George Linn. We did not know that we were meeting him at the beginning of the last twelve months of his earthly life.

Our friend and contractor Kevin Butschek had approached George about helping with the layout and design for our first major building at the Mission – St. Michael's Hall. George not only agreed to do this but offered to **donate** his services – no small thing. Thus we went to meet this big man with the white beard, the Tulsa twang, and the easy, engaging sense of humor. He emerged from his desk wearing socks, khaki shorts, and a polo shirt — George was intrinsically casual — and so began a gift of providence for both the parties involved. George met with us several times; listened to our plans; worked to fit what we wanted into the limited space and limited budget that was ours; and still managed to produce a building of handsome proportion and grace. We were delighted!

Early last winter I'd called George to talk about the next project at the Mission. But because his professional life was flourishing and I knew that he was juggling several contracts I was in fact giving him a chance to bow out; a chance to say, "I'd love to, but..." Instead he gladdened my heart by saying that he was committed for the long haul. And I had expected to meet with him in a couple of months. That meeting never took place.

On the morning of February 28 we received word that George Linn had suffered a massive heart attack the night before and was not expected to live. Three of us went into the hospital and were able to kneel and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy around his bed, to bless him with blessed oil, and to place over his heart for a few moments a Relic of the True Cross. He never regained consciousness and he died that evening.

But something had happened to George during his last year, something that several different people commented on to us. We had offered, last summer, a Mass for his intentions in our private Chapel. And George and his heart's delight — his wife Peggy — came. I had warned him that it would be a longer, quieter Mass than he was used to and had told him that he didn't need to be present. But, no, he said they would

come. After that, we were told, he changed. He was still George, but George with a difference. In the depths of his soul there had been some exchange between the Lord and George and the effect of that marked the last year of his life. "He began to really live," one relative said. And "George, who was never serious, talked to me for ten minutes about the meaning of life and about God."

One morning a week after he had died I woke up and realized that I'd seen George Linn in my dream.

He was gazing into the distance looking serious; dignified, at peace. He wore a long-sleeved dress shirt of pale lavender opened at the collar and a pair of pale grey dress slacks with a narrow leather belt. While simple and understated one had the impression that the clothes were very finely made.

Then, as if he'd suddenly remembered or as if something had prompted him, he thrust his hand into his pocket and pulled out a very simple Rosary — plastic beads and string — and looked down at it. That was all I saw.

Later that day when I was thinking about the dream I found myself surprised at seeing him with a Rosary. To my knowledge George, as a convert in the 70's, had never been exposed to much Marian devotion. I wasn't even sure he owned a Rosary. "Of course," I thought, "in Eternity everyone loves Mary." Still I was surprised by that image. Only later did I experience a sudden "click" and realize what George was gazing at. He was gazing at the Chaplet. ♦

Sister Magdalene

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 15

- ♦ Solemn Mass 3:00 p.m.
- ♦ Entry of candidates into the Novitiate of the Amici Christi MDM
- ♦ Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Veneration of Image
- ♦ Reception

* The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be available; Sacramental confession within 20 days of the Feast is sufficient to fulfill the conditions for a plenary indulgence.

Lord, send forth

On the evening of the Resurrection, Our Lord breathes on the Apostles and an outpouring of this Holy Spirit. In preparation for the Easter season, we shall pray. (If the first paragraph proves difficult, then skip to the second and start there.)

God, One and Triune, in His essence and in His divine nature, is One yet variegated in the Three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Love *par excellence* which unites the other Two: Father and Son. In Its perennial willing and working, the Divine Essence of the Three Divine Persons is immutable and inalterable. The Spirit with His love unites and vivifies Them, the Father being the Creator, the Son the Redeemer, and the Spirit of Both, the Divine Spirit which unites Their Divine Nature in the Essence of His Being.

Daughter, it is both easy and difficult for human beings to understand the intrinsic action of God. But it is the Divine Spirit who places the sanctifying seal on souls. Scripture already says it: You would not be worthy or capable of pronouncing My Holy Name, the Name of Jesus, if it were not for the sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit.

But, daughter, remember what I have always told you. The cooperation of the in-

dividual, of the person, is needed so that the sanctifying action might produce its fruits, the fruits of eternal life.

*You cannot imagine what
marvels of grace would
be produced in your souls
by simply pronouncing
the Holy Name of Jesus
with love, veneration,
and holy respect.*

You cannot imagine what marvels of grace would be produced in your souls by simply pronouncing the Holy Name of Jesus with love, veneration, and holy respect. Jesus, that Name at which every knee bends, in the heavens, on the earth, and in the underworld. That Name has a very great power of acting against the Enemy, of changing the elements and the nature of things (when miracles happen). My Holy Name has a power in Itself, but it also

has a power in you and for you, by the action of the Holy Spirit.

Daughter, how many miracles would happen in My Church if My Name were pronounced with the force of My Holy Spirit, which is rooted or should be rooted and dwell in you by means of grace! But how many of you who are in the state of grace do not have the faith necessary and sufficient to draw miracles from Heaven!

th Your Spirit!

says, "Receive the Holy Spirit". Fifty days later, at Pentecost, they experience are this meditation on the Holy Spirit, which a friend felt that she received in from there.)

My Holy Spirit wants to sanctify you, not only to save you. But, through your negligence, you prevent the action of grace.

Daughter, your negligence would bring you to the abyss if it were not for My Love and My Mercy. You give priority to everything except to the motions of My Spirit, motions with which many so-called "Christians" are not acquainted nor do they even know they exist. The motions of the Spirit are all those good desires which spontaneously appear in the soul, all good desires to pray, to do good, to dedicate oneself to the things of God, to what is sacred. But as soon as the idea of doing something holy appears, something good, you confound that idea with the thought of some human unfinished business, or with an errand to fulfill.

Daughter, how much I find Myself supplanted by the activities of modern life. Daughter, My children, these things are not necessary; they are not really important; yet

you put Me off to one side in order to realize them. If you only knew how many tears My Heart has shed at seeing Myself put off

to one side in favor of daily activities that you prefer over Me. And this sorrow is caused Me by "My own people."

You give priority to everything except to the motions

of My Spirit....

...as soon as the idea of doing something holy appears,

something good, you confound that idea with the thought of some human unfinished business, or with

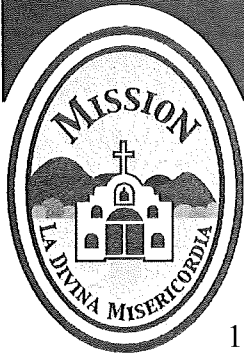
an errand to fulfill....

Children, little children, be and act like children of the true God, brothers of the Word, and children of the True Spirit. "SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS JUSTICE, AND THE REST WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU," says Scripture.

Be attentive to the voice of the Spirit, not only so that you might run, but fly with the

wings of holiness.

The Divine Spirit, My Holy Spirit, blesses you, vivifies you, and sanctifies you here on earth and for all eternity. ✠



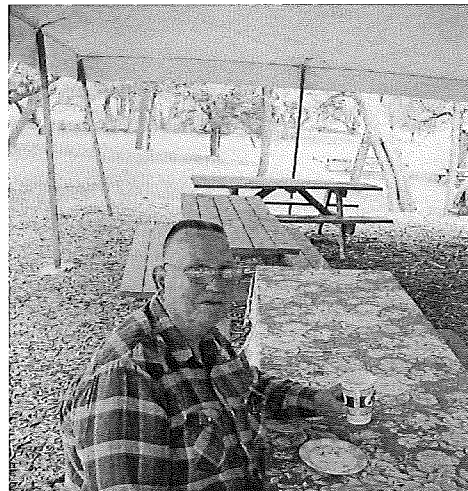
Project Update

Mission La Divina Misericordia

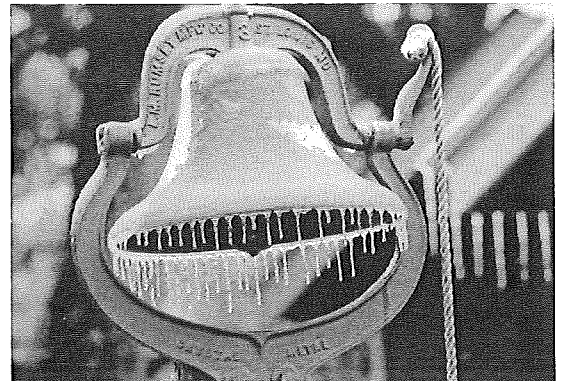
1. Recently a road grader has been at work here creating a **new entry road and parking area** on the southern side of the Camp House. Once it is surfaced Fr. John Mary has visions of an outdoor basketball court when the parking lot is not in use. Our heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Greg Ploch** for volunteering his own time, equipment, and labor to bring this about.

2. The Conference Room and Main Hall at St. Michael's now sport a handsome set of **one hundred sturdy, stackable chairs**.

Our gratitude to all of you who responded to our plea for safe seating, and especially to our loyal friend, **Mr. Chuck Bloom**, whose generosity was essential in bringing this about. Now you may sit without fear....



Mr. Melvin Voigt and some of the picnic tables he has also made for the Mission..

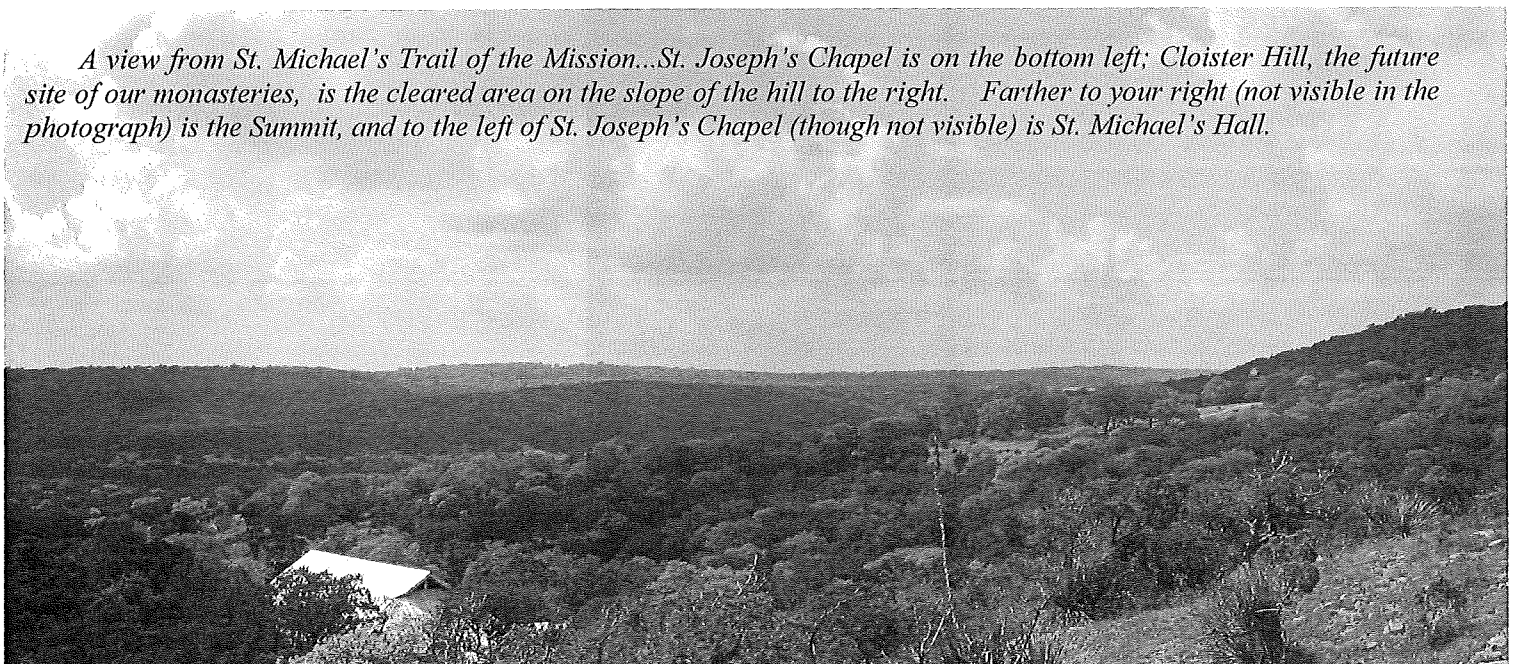


Something we don't often see in South Texas...icicles on the Mission bell....

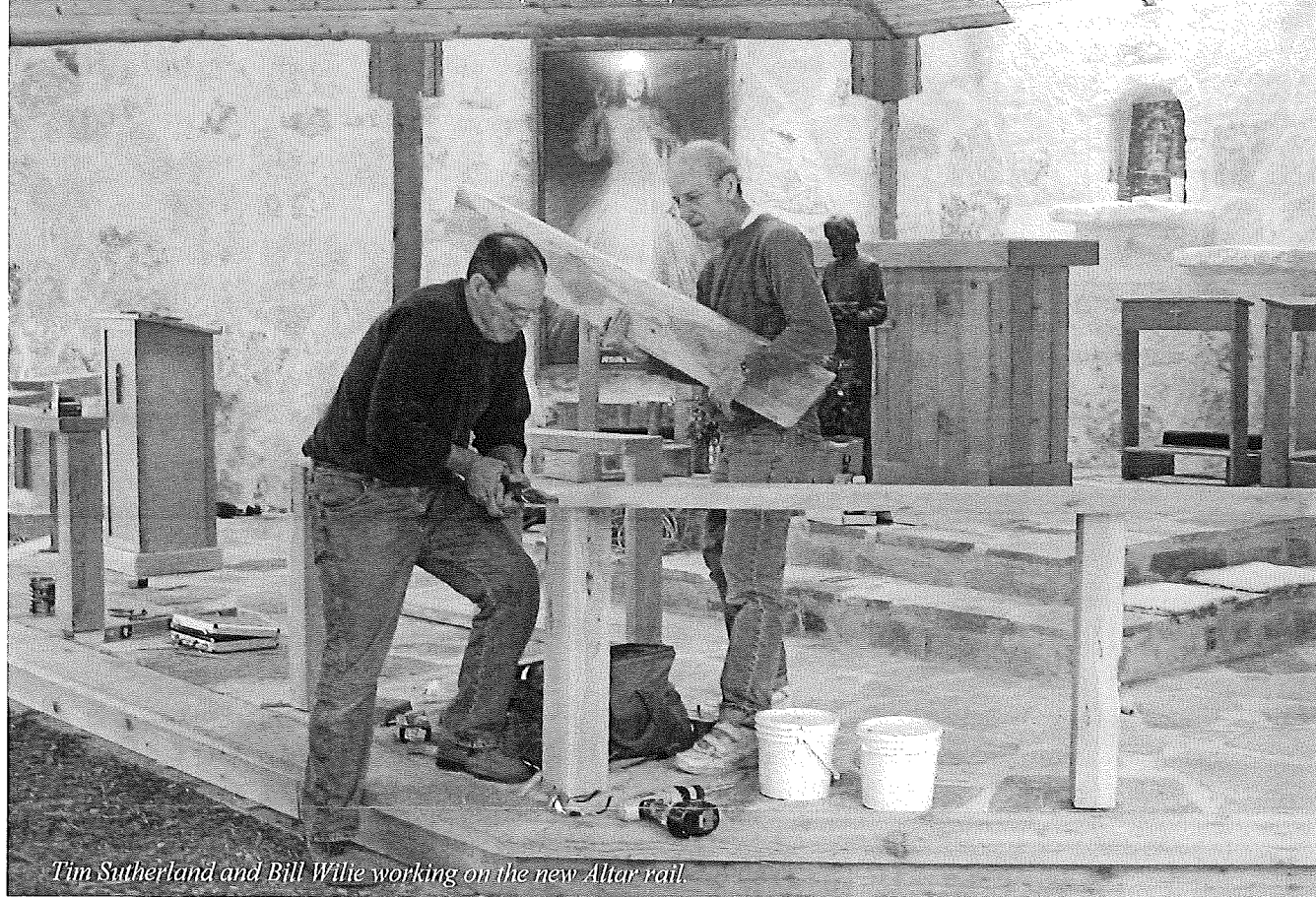
3. Dave has been badly in need of some heavy-duty equipment to help with the work at the Mission. Recently **Steve Magdich** spearheaded the fundraising effort which, with the help of a few friends, enabled us to purchase at a very reduced price a **new Bobcat**. (A New Holland Skid Steer L180, for those in the know.) This has makes a world of difference when clearing cedar, excavating, and re-locating boulders.

4. St. Joseph's Chapel is now filled with **strong handmade wooden benches** thanks to the generous and tireless skill of **Mr. Melvin Voigt and friends**. We bless you and we thank you! ♦

A view from St. Michael's Trail of the Mission...St. Joseph's Chapel is on the bottom left; Cloister Hill, the future site of our monasteries, is the cleared area on the slope of the hill to the right. Farther to your right (not visible in the photograph) is the Summit, and to the left of St. Joseph's Chapel (though not visible) is St. Michael's Hall.



New Altar Rail for St. Joseph's Chapel

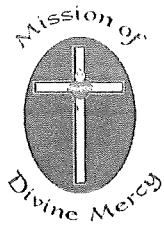


Tim Sutherland and Bill Wilie working on the new Altar rail.

Two years ago on a cold, gray Saturday in March the construction began for St. Joseph's Chapel. Without anyone planning it, it turned out to be **March 19th, the Feast Day of St. Joseph**. This year, after being in the works for several months, the **new altar rail** has finally been installed there. Interestingly it was again March 19th when the men were able to begin installation.

This has not been an easy project. And at one particularly difficult point one of the men looked over in discouragement and frustration at the statue of St. Joseph. Then he could not look away. **Because he saw St. Joseph smiling at him.** For about a minute he just stared at the statue. Then he was interrupted and when he looked back the statue was as before. But after that things seemed to fall into place.

We are extremely grateful to **Mr. John Weber** for spearheading this project; to **Mr. Tim Sutherland** for contributing his skill and artistic expertise; and to the following gentlemen – **Phil Barney, Howard Schulz, Dave Sommers and Bill Wilie** – for their hard work. The cedar wood for the altar rail came from the Mission and from the property of **Dr. Larry Aniol**. And Phil Barney personally devoted a lot of time to selecting and milling the wood. In doing this he made the acquaintance of **Mr. Jody Friedel**, who was in the last stages of cancer, and who volunteered his equipment and knowledge to help Phil to prepare the wood. This was the last project that Jody, whose real name was Joseph, **worked on before his death**. We ask that he may participate through eternity in all the graces received at this altar rail ♦

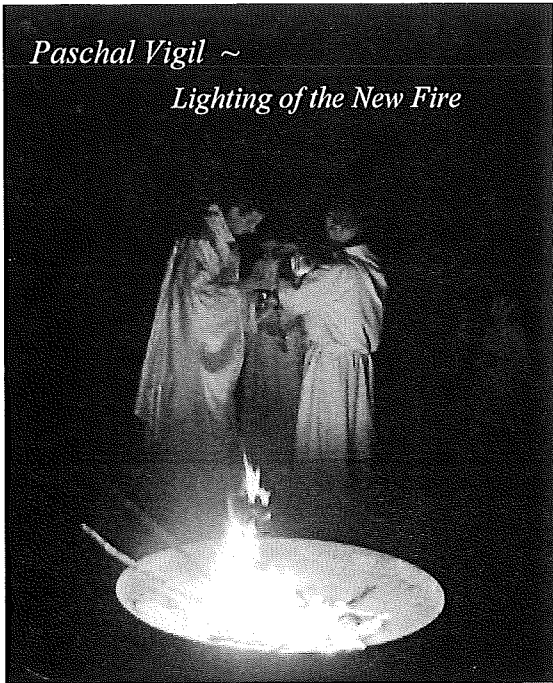


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Paschal Vigil ~

Lighting of the New Fire



Summer 2007 Youth Camps

ST. MICHAEL SQUADRON AND JUNIOR SQUADRON SUMMER CAMPS FOR YOUNG MEN

These are a different type of summer camp. It is not easy to be a young man today with all the problems that we face. Each one of us has a personal mission from the Lord. These camps are to help young men discover the mission the Lord has created them for, and to begin now to fulfill that mission in their daily lives -- to be authentic friends of Our Lord Jesus; friends that He can rely on. Not easy. But He is there to help us. With God, all things are possible. If this interests you, contact us for more information.

- ♦ **ST MICHAEL SENIOR SQUADRON CAMP** for young men high-school or college aged. **June 25- July 1.**
- ♦ **ST MICHAEL MISSION CAMP** for those who made the camp the preceding week and want to continue in a more intense formation. **July 3-July 8.**
- ♦ **ST MICHAEL JUNIOR SQUADRON CAMP** for boys entering 6-8 grade. **July 9-July 15**

QUEEN OF PEACE SUMMER PRAYER CAMP

This camp is an opportunity for young women of high-school* and college age to draw closer to Jesus through a week of prayer, spiritual formation, work and recreation. It is also an opportunity to live this time with other young women who desire to be true to Jesus and who also face the difficult challenge of remaining faithful to Him in their daily lives.

It is not designed for the purpose of entertainment or recreation, but is first of all — for one week — the gift of one's life laid at the Feet of Jesus in adoration and reparation and supplication. It is also a good way to seek His Plan for one's future. The young women will live the whole week in skirts — long, comfortable skirts and loose fitting tops.

- ♦ **QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER CAMP**
June 5 – 10, 2007

** Rising high-school freshmen are welcome to attend.*