

Mission of Divine Mercy

Lent 2010, A.D.

Crown of Thorns...

**On the First
Sunday of Lent
Father John
Mary read a
moving account of
the story of a Bavar-
ian Nun who lived with
French Sisters in England
during World War I.**

Awkward, without any special charm or skill; hindered by her clumsiness in both French and English; cut off from all contact with family and country; and surrounded by virulent anti-German sentiment (for those around her "Bavarian" was synonymous with "German"), her loneliness and isolation were complete.

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Breaking Every Yoke

By Fr. John Mary

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke. (Is.58:6)

This Scripture is read on the first Friday of Lent. **Lent is a blessed time of mercy. Not a time to add burdens but to take them away.** The Father wants us to free His oppressed children. And this begins with *our own soul*.

Penitential discipline may be very helpful.

But I also think of many people I know who take quite seriously their response to the Lord. They may be weighed down by scruples; by an exaggerated sense of the sinfulness of their actions and an excessive focus on their own sinfulness. **This experience can be paralyzing, especially because they feel that it is coming from God Himself.**

Others are weighed down and crushed by so many things; like the loneliness and isolation of the poor Bavarian Nun in the cover story; or health problems; or family divisions; or economic stress; or interior difficulties. And often with this comes the worst suffering: **the spirits of darkness tormenting them with the sense that God has abandoned them, or that He just isn't there.**

In cases like these the last thing these people may need in Lent is another burden, more penance. Rather they need His Mercy. They need relief from their burdens. Or, like the Nun crowned with thorns, they need to know the Lord's special union with them in their anguish. Their Lenten efforts may be simple things like trying to get more rest, or making time to take a quiet walk with the Lord. Or repeating: "Jesus, I trust in You."

Let us remember what the Lord wants for His children this Lent: *This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke.* ♦

(Continued from page 1)

The Sisters ran a boarding school for English girls and one day the author*, at that time a child of nine, wandered into the boot room where the Bavarian Nun was polishing a pair of children's shoes. Abruptly realizing that the Nun was silently weeping, her tears falling onto the pair of shoes in her lap, the little girl froze with embarrassment, her eyes downcast. Finally forcing herself to look at the Nun she raised her eyes, only to be amazed by what she saw. The Nun was weighed down by the Crown of Thorns.

"I wouldn't cry if I were wearing the Crown of Thorns like you are," the little girl said.

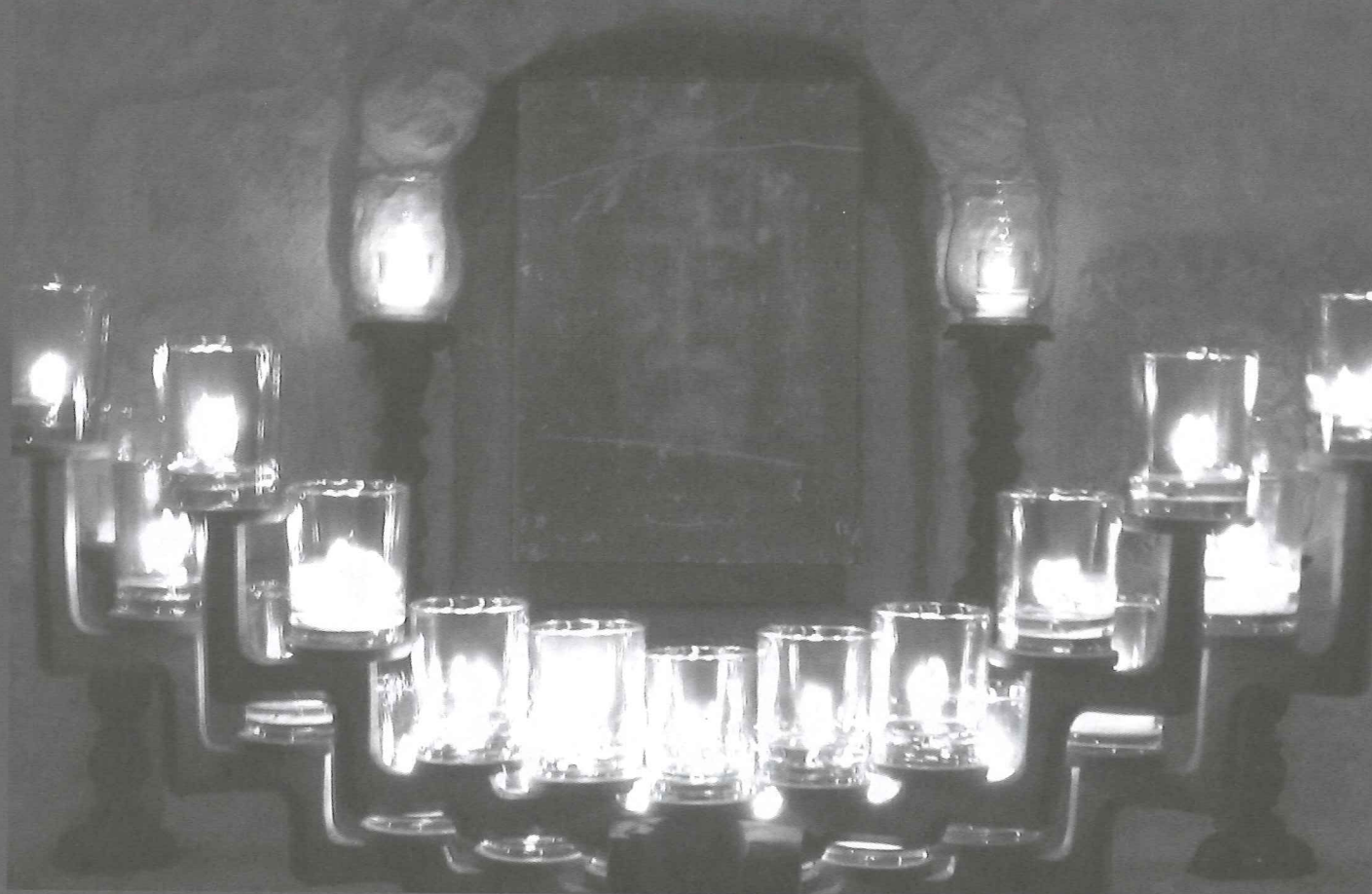
"What do you mean?" the Nun asked, startled.

"I don't know," the girl replied. And she sat and together they polished the children's shoes.

At that time she didn't know. But as she grew older this experience proved to be a touchstone for all her later understanding of the Passion of Christ lived out in suffering humanity. ♦

(* Caryll Houselander in her book "A Rocking Horse Catholic")

From the Diary of St. Faustina



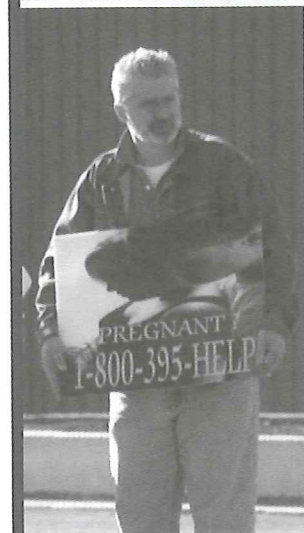
*“...Your silent day-to-day martyrdom
in complete submission to My will ushers many souls into heaven.
And when it seems to you that your suffering exceeds your strength,
contemplate My wounds,
and you will rise above human scorn and judgment.
Meditation on My Passion will help you rise above all things.” (No. 1184)*



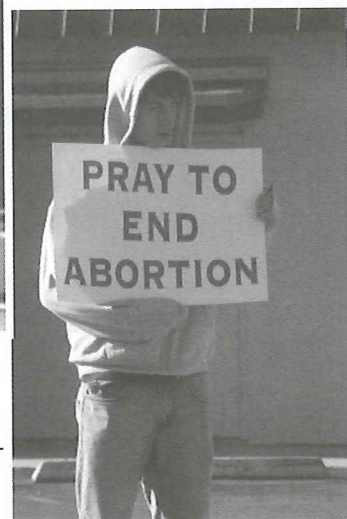
*“There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion
than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood;
the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you,
and it brings Me great joy.” (No. 369)*



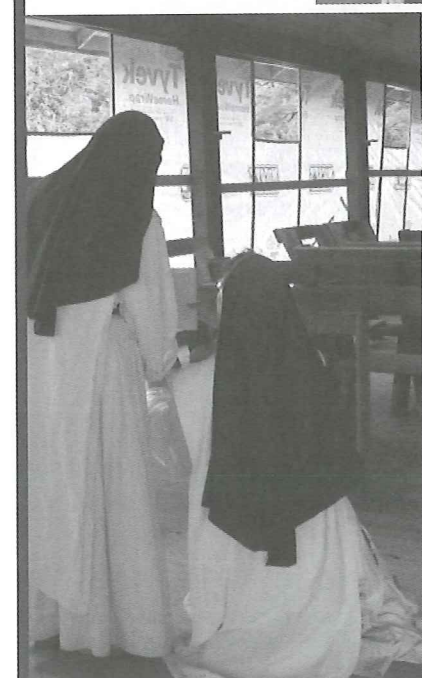
Fr. Edward O'Connor, CSC, discusses the role of charisms during the Community retreat in January.



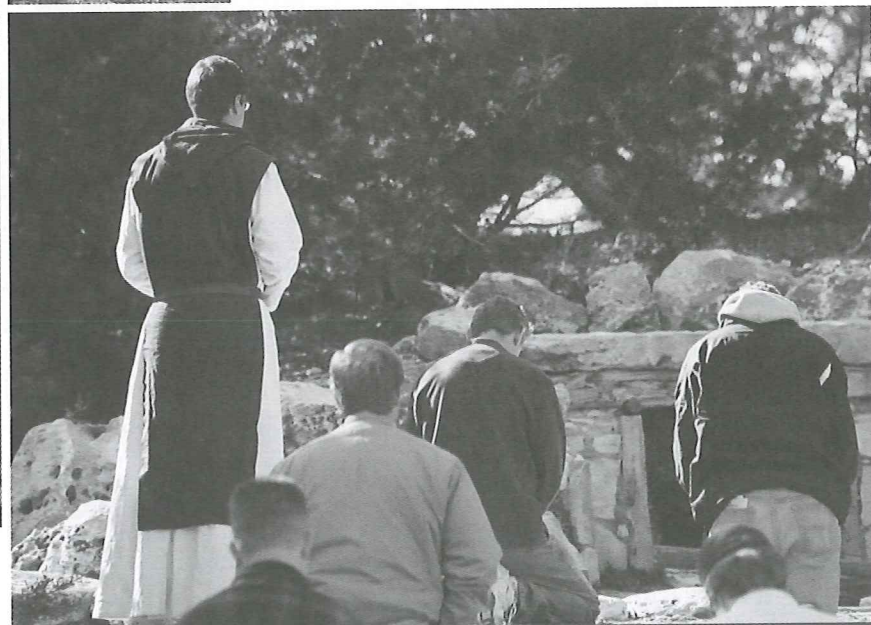
Members of Amici Christi and the St. Michael Squadron at Pro-Life demonstration.



Reflection on the Passion during the Men's February EWJ.



Text-check before Holy Hour in our pre-walled Chapel..

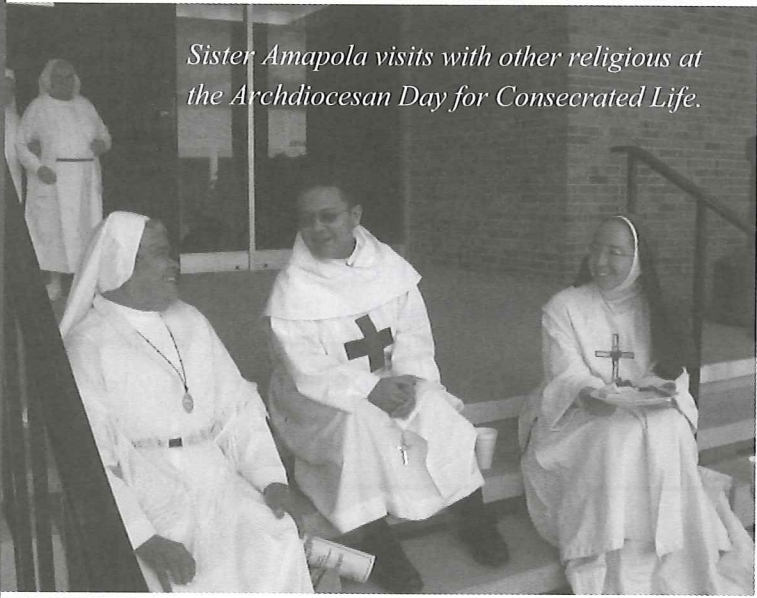




MDM Journal...



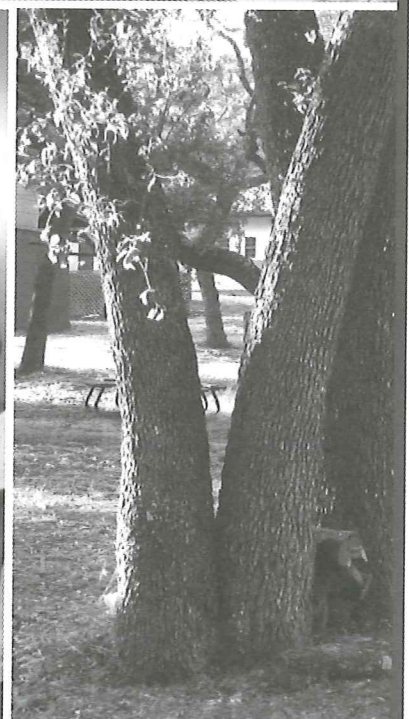
*Fr. Moses and Amici Christi members
during breakfast discussion.*



*Sister Amapola visits with other religious at
the Archdiocesan Day for Consecrated Life.*



Women's EWJ Retreat Fall 2009



Three Stories of Mercy

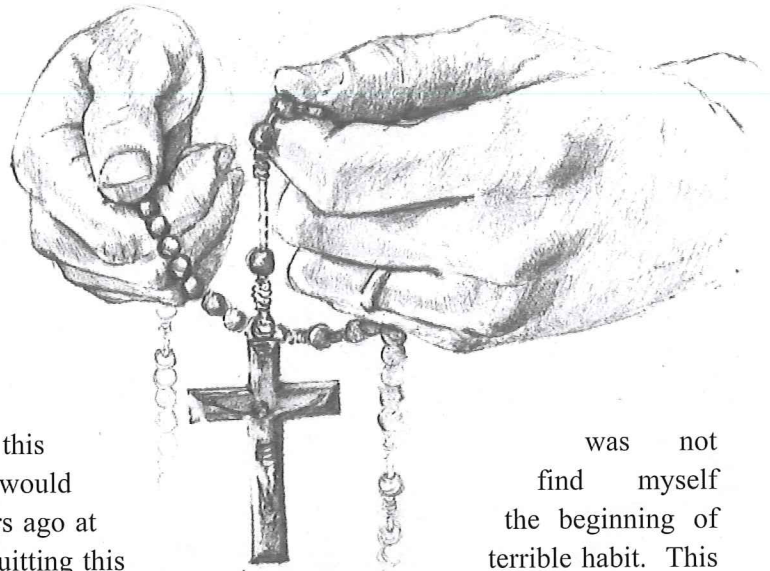
from Amici Christi Members

I. "Pray for us Sinners..."

"As a young teen-aged boy I picked up the habit of cursing. It became a regular part of my language. I was able to curb its use, however, whenever I was in the presence of women and also adults because I was raised to have respect for women and adults. I did not learn this language from my father either, as I never heard him use even the mildest swear word.

"This habit continued into my adult life. I knew this right and there were several times that I tried to stop, but would returning to the same old pattern. Then about fifteen years ago at the New Year I again decided to make a new attempt at quitting this time I asked for help. I promised Our Blessed Mother that if She would that I would say the Rosary every day.

"I began on the first day that I went to work after the New Year holiday by saying the Rosary on my daily commute. **What I had found impossible to do on my own became the easiest task I had ever tried.** The terrible swear words that I had used without thinking no longer came out of my mouth. The change was immediate. I was astounded and humbled that such a small act could produce such results. I have continued saying the Rosary on a daily basis and the graces I have received are countless. It changed my life." ♦



was not
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help me stop cursing

II. "...Now and at the Hour of Our Death."

She was a Catholic and he was a Protestant.

He had been an invalid for years and now his whole system was shutting down. He was at home under hospice care and would die within a few days.

She went over to visit him one last time, this friend that they were so fond of and who had been such a good neighbor to them ever since they'd moved there.

When she arrived at the house there was an unusual amount of activity – family members gathering, friends helping out, a hospice worker explaining some procedure. At that moment no one was with him as he lay in the corner bed in a semi-comatose state. His wife embraced her, thanked her for coming, and welcomed her to go sit with him for awhile.

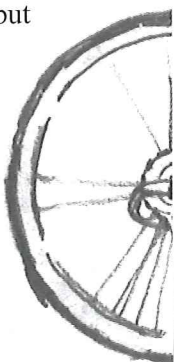
His eyes were closed. For the last week he'd

been in and out of consciousness. He might say a word or two – the name of his wife or his children – but that was about all.

She sat there alone with him in the midst of so many people, placed her hand on his, and found herself silently praying a part of the Rosary. She sat a few more minutes with him then rose to go.

At that point he slowly moved his arm and placed his hand on his chest. Then he said softly but distinctly, *"My soul is in my heart."* His wife who was nearby was startled. It was the first sentence he'd spoken in over a week.

She left and did not see him again. He died a few days later on the First Saturday of the month, the day of Our Lady. ♦



III. "Were not our hearts burning within us..."

She is a good friend of ours; a practical woman. She has a husband, children, and a challenging professional occupation. And the man on the bike is someone that she sees periodically. She had seen him before; she has seen him since. But that day was different.

It was cold, gray, damp. Driving to the convenience store she passed him riding in the same direction on his bike. It wasn't the first time she'd noticed him. He was thin, poorly dressed, with the look of someone surviving on a shoe-string. Occasionally she had seen him turning into the local re-cycling center with a bag of empty cans and would wonder if the modest amount he collected there was a vital part of his income.

That day he entered the convenience store as she was preparing to leave and she wondered again about his poverty, whether this was where he'd pick up his meal for the day. She had a ten dollar bill in her wallet and she wanted to give it to him but didn't want to embarrass him. So she left the store. Getting into her car she noticed a paper clip on the front seat and on impulse walked across the parking lot to his bike and clipped the bill onto the handle bar.

As she returned to her car he came out of the store and thinking that she was going in started to hold the door for her. She smiled but shook her head indicating that she was

going to her car and kept on walking. But their eyes had

met and she would comment on this later; he was just an ordinary man.

When she got into her car and started to turn on the ignition she glanced over at the man thirty yards away. He'd found the bill, looked over at her and smiled. But suddenly she wasn't seeing him. She was seeing the Face of Jesus. "...the way He looks in the Image of Divine Mercy," she said, "and with those Eyes; with so much love."

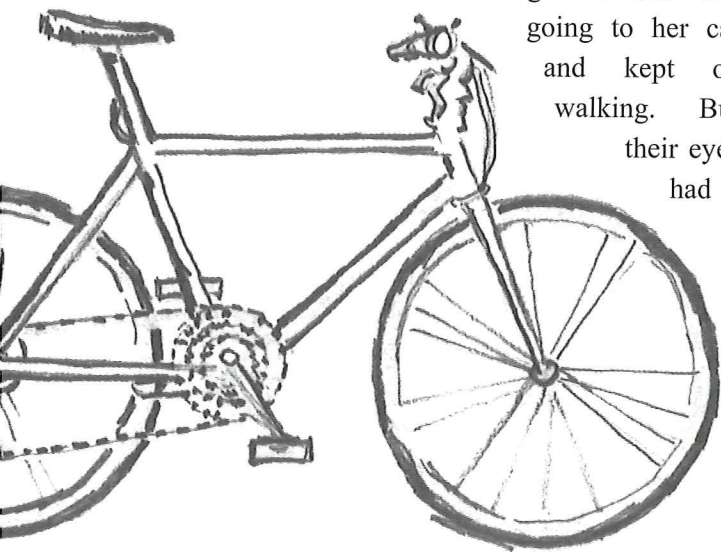
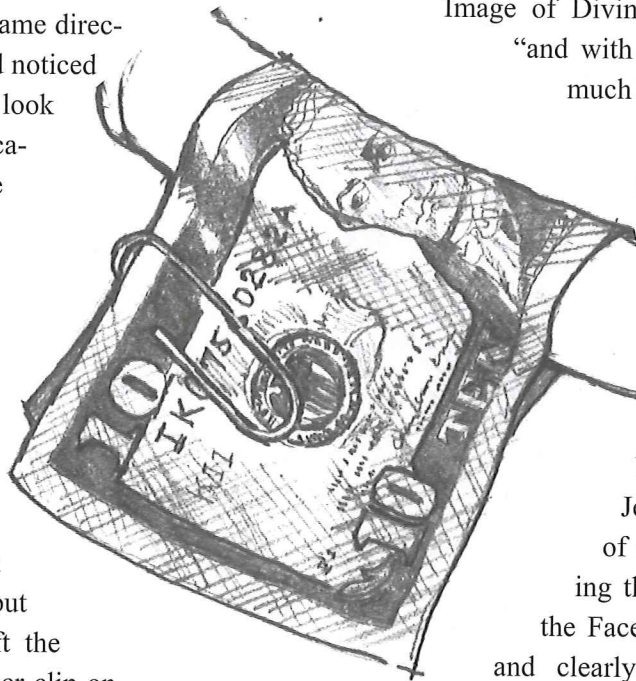
"I don't know how it was possible," she would later say, "because I couldn't see the man's eyes clearly. He was too far away. But when it became the Face of Jesus it was as if all of a sudden I was staring through a zoom lens; the Face of Jesus was close and clearly visible, especially His Eyes."

At that same moment she felt a burning sensation in the center of her chest and found herself bursting into tears. (She is not, she says, a person who cries easily.)

She's not sure how long she sat there. When she finally looked up the man had left. She started her car and drove home.

She has passed that man on the road once or twice since and seen nothing unusual. But the impact of that experience has not disappeared. And whenever she recalls it or speaks about it she feels again that warmth in the center of her chest.

"Were not our hearts burning within us when He spoke to us on the road." (Luke 24:32) ♦



Amici Christi:

Deacon Bob Gorman: "What really strikes me is what a rare opportunity it is for people of our time to be involved in the founding days of a religious community, and the building of a monastery. Most people would think of that as something that hasn't occurred since the Middle Ages. But God calls new communities in to being, for each age, and He forms them for the needs of that age. The Mission of Divine Mercy has been called in to being right here and right now. As members of Amici Christi, we have a special call to grow in the spirit of Divine Mercy, but also to be a source of support for this young Community."



Charlotte Pollard: "What stands out most to me about the Amici Christi program...and the Mission of Divine Mercy is that...it is truly a family whose one desire is to do our Father's will. I remember the moment I decided that I wanted to belong to this wonderful community that I just loved. It was at one of the first meetings about starting a lay branch. It was when Fr. John Mary, referring to our heavenly Father, said that the Mission was about 'whatever He wants.' What BEAUTIFUL words! Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done! That is the Mission and Amici Christi: being enveloped by goodness and holiness, and knowing that is what everyone there is striving for."



Susan Childs: "Attending the Encounter with Jesus weekend several years ago was a life changing spiritual experience. After it, I knew I wanted to stay close---spiritually and physically-

"The Lord usually leads us by simple, non-dramatic steps. Often it is only afterwards, as we look back, that we see how important they were, and how much He is doing in a quiet way."

That was a statement from Father John Mary in the fall of 2005 referring to the new gathering of a group of people who would eventually be known as the *Amici Christi*, MDM - Latin for *Friends of Christ*.

Why does this group exist? What do they do? And nearly five years later what do they feel that God was and is doing in His quiet way?

FJM: This group is for lay people, married or single, who want to live the spirituality of the Mission of Divine Mercy in their situation in the world. If MDM is to become the movement that the Lord wants it to be, the lay branch is essential. And the Amici Christi are not just friends but rather members, family members of MDM.

They share the spirit of MDM but have the special grace of the lay vocation: to be the leaven of the Lord in our world. They bring MDM into places that we can't. They give a witness that we can't. They give a concrete example to other men and women of how God's Mercy can be lived in the world.

What does membership require?

We have purposely kept the requirements simple and flexible so that they can fit with the wide variety of people's situations. There is an effort of regular prayer and participation in the monthly meetings and some other activities. But what is most important is the spirit: faith in His Mercy and abandonment to His Will.

The *Amici Christi* should not take people away from their duties with their family, work and parish, but rather help them to live them better.

A vital part of MDM

The group meets at the Mission one Sunday a month. There's an 8am breakfast; a 9am meeting where they gather for an hour of teaching and reflection (currently they're studying Pope John Paul's encyclical on the laity); Sunday Mass at 10:30am; and then - except for the winter months - there's a potluck dinner at the tent which is open to all.

The coordination of the *Amici Christi* has been entrusted to one of the members, Deacon Bob Gorman of Sts Peter and Paul Parish, a Professor of Political Philosophy at Texas State University.

Having begun their preparation in the fall of '05, in the spring of 2007 the first group of *Amici Christi* Members entered into a two-year novitiate period of formation. Then on Divine Mercy Sunday last spring that group made history - even if quietly - by becoming the first *Amici Christi* members in the history of the world ☺, and also of Comal County, to profess their commitment and receive the newly-struck *Amici Christi* medals.

(The commitment is made for just one year and then can be renewed annually. Thus if for some reason a person no longer wishes to be a part of the group he is easily able to withdraw.)

A year after receiving his medal *Amici Christi* Member **Dennis Brown** says, **"I wear my medal all the time. I don't ever intend to take it off. I hope I never have to."**

Ever since the Community arrived in New Braunfels we have been struck by the deep response on the part of different individuals to the message of Jesus' Mercy. We would not still be here, much less developing the Mission, were it not for so many who have already embraced this Mission and its Message. It is the work and prayer of these individuals that has laid the foundation for this new branch.

We believe the *Amici Christi* have a vital role to play in the future Mercies the Lord is preparing for His People. ♦

to MDM. (I hoped that if I stayed physically close, I might get some of their holiness just through osmosis!) So when the *Amici Christi* group was being formed, there was not a moment of hesitation. I was thrilled to be able to join a lay branch of MDM. Perfect opportunity. An answer to prayer.

"As we start another year and I reflect on my life since joining the *Amici Christi*, I find that it's not easy to verbalize how my life has changed since becoming a member. I doubt that I appear to be a better person. I still struggle with the same old sins, and some new ones, and am often daunted by life's challenges. (That holiness by association that I'd hoped for just doesn't seem to be happening.) My life's journey hasn't changed. The hoped for destination, heaven, is still the same. But, because of MDM and *Amici Christi*, I feel I'm on the journey with a group of like-minded pilgrims---some of whom are journey experts---which makes the journey more pleasant, and, instead of traveling with an old map, I feel that we've been given access to a GPS."



Joe and Anne Castro: "We regenerate ourselves when we come to the Mission, and the *Amici Christi* is where we meet other companions on our journey....We are instructed and guided along a not so smooth spiritual road, but as companions we are there to help each other. Our Lord has all of us going different directions...The road can get rocky and rough, but coming together once a month helps us all realize that we are all companions in a most important journey and we can help each other make it all the way."

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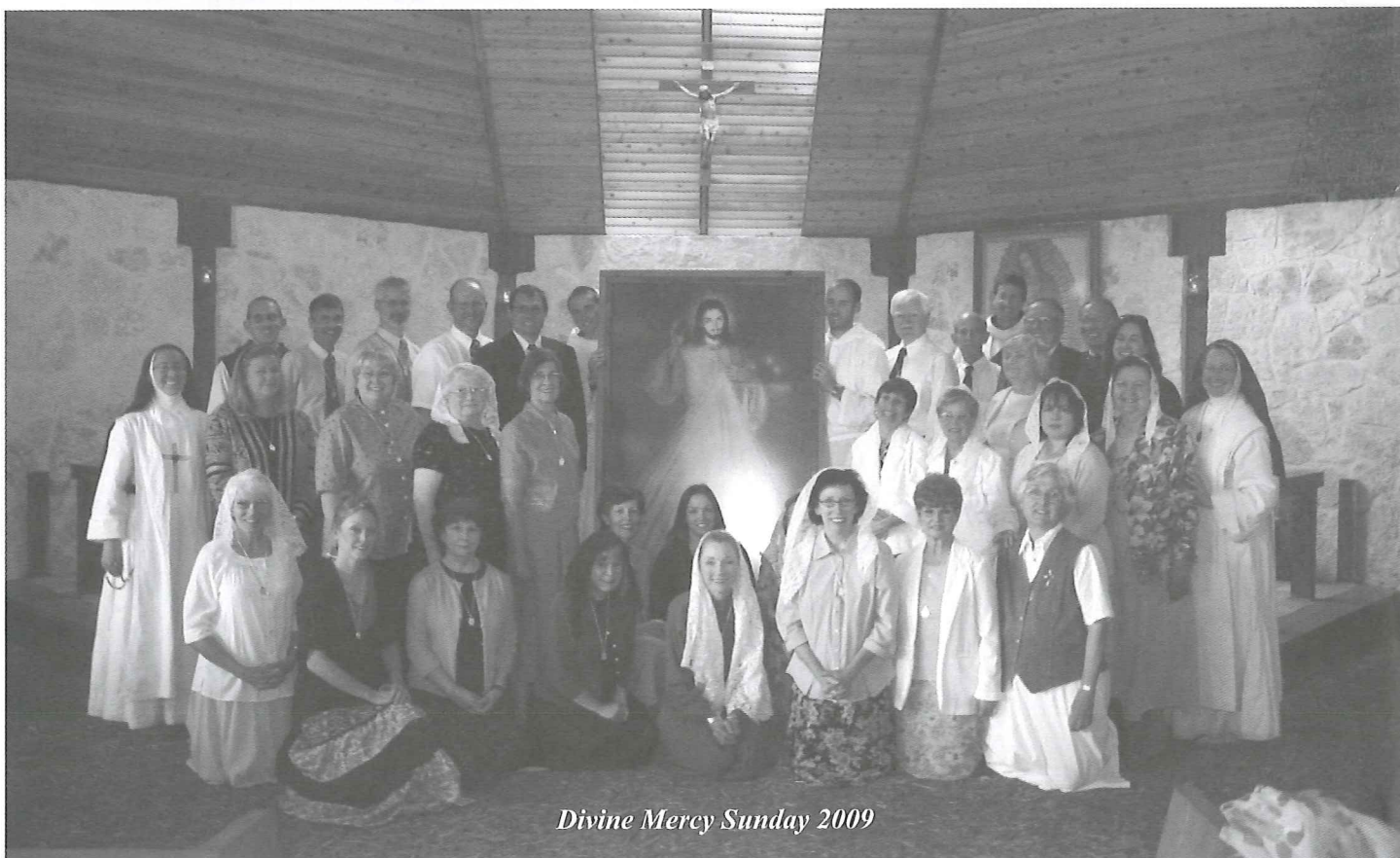
Amici Christi Member: "The Amici Christi has been a support system for returning to a deeper participation in the practices of the Church. When I first started becoming closer to MDM I felt very out of place with my family and loved ones because they did not understand why I felt so drawn to a deeper spiritual life. At Amici Christi, I realized that almost everyone here shared similar experiences. Now, after watching me carefully for a few years some of my family members would like to share in what I have found here at the Mission."



Amici Christi Member: "When I first started taking my Catholic faith more seriously, I began to see that questions of faith and morality hit me at every turn of my life. They were there in making business decisions, in how you raise your children or whether to even have children. These questions influenced who I voted for. Even all this environ-

mentalism raised big questions for me: like when is it being a good steward of God's creation and when is it putting the environment ahead of the dignity of the human being? The questions were everywhere, and I didn't always feel equipped to answer them, or even to explain to myself why I made the decisions I did. I wanted to look to my Faith for some direction in making decisions, but my faith knowledge just wasn't there.

"Being in Amici Christi has been like re-starting my faith education. The talks by Fr. John Mary and Deacon Bob, and the discussions with other members have been an important part of my on-going Catholic education. But perhaps most importantly, being in Amici Christi has helped me to develop a real prayer life for the first time in my adult life. Even the idea of God's mercy was sort of new to me. I probably thought more about judgment than about mercy. Prayer and trusting in His mercy have really helped me in working through some of the tough questions that all of us face in life." ♦



Divine Mercy Sunday 2009

Paschal Triduum Retreat April 1 - 3, 2010

*You are welcome to come to whichever activities you choose.
But the Paschal Triduum forms a whole. To fully experience it, we strongly recommend
participating in all the activities, whether at your parish or at the Mission.*

PALM SUNDAY March 28

- ♦ **Solemn Mass 10:30 a.m.**

HOLY THURSDAY April 1 (Please bring a flashlight)

- ♦ **Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist 7:00 p.m.**
Procession to the Altar of Repose
- ♦ **Eucharistic Adoration Ends at 10:00 p.m.**

GOOD FRIDAY April 2 *A day of silence and prayer*

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation
will be available during the breaks*

- ♦ **Outdoor walking Way of the Cross 9:00 a.m.**
- ♦ **Quiet Time**
- ♦ **Service of the Passion 3:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **Novena of Divine Mercy 5:00 p.m.**
Mission closes at 6:00 p.m.

** Comfortable shoes and sun hat may be needed.
Ice water and tea will be provided. Meals will not be
provided. Feel free to bring your own lunch if you plan to
stay for the whole day.*

HOLY SATURDAY April 3

Morning: *The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
beginning at 9:00 a.m.*

- ♦ **Rosary and meditations in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows 9:00 a.m.**
- ♦ **Quiet time**
- ♦ **Novena of Divine Mercy (Second day) 11:00 a.m.**
Mission closes at Noon.

Holy Saturday Evening (Please bring a flashlight)

- ♦ **Solemn Easter Vigil 9:00 p.m.**

*This great Vigil is the highest moment of the Church's
year. It includes the blessing of the New Fire and an ex-
tensive series of Scriptural readings. It is over two hours
in length. No reception follows.*

EASTER SUNDAY April 4

- ♦ **Solemn Mass 10:30 a.m.**

Divine Mercy Sunday April 11, 2010

- ♦ **Solemn Mass 3:00 p.m.** *First Vows of Br. Mikael of Mary*
- ♦ **Veneration of Image & Chaplet of Divine Mercy**
- ♦ **Reception**

A Special Promise of Mercy*

*"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)*

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

** In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be
available **Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. till noon.** * Church officials have indi-
cated 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.*

*"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)

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.**

For more information please call (830) 905-4515 or check our website: www.missionofdivinemeracy.org



MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2009

INCOME

Donations	400,472
Restricted Donations	398,040
Dividends & Interest Income	2,081
Other Income	1,329

Total Income	801,922
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EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	65,166
Interest Expense	48,576
Insurance	34,976
Repair & Supplies	28,576
Office & Professional Expenses	30,463
Food & Essentials	24,741
Auto & Truck	9,107
Utilities	7,508
Other Expenses	5,509

Total Expenses	254,622
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Increase in Net Assets	547,300
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Principal Payments on Loans	276,750
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New Construction	259,000
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Increase in Cash	17,750
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You Bring in \$113,000+ for the Mission

As you will see from our financial statement, MDM ended the year with a cash balance of nearly \$18,000. Being on the plus-side of the ledger is due, first, to the gentle but persistent nagging of **Tim Brierty and the Advisory Committees** (see page 14), and second, to the **unexpectedly strong response of our friends.**

Looking at our financial situation Tim had urged Father to send out an **end-of-the-year appeal letter**, something we'd never done. Father resisted, arguing that he'd made an appeal in the December Newsletter, and also that many of our friends, too, were struggling under increased economic burdens. When Tim and Company repeated their advice, citing the state of our bank account, Father acquiesced, turning it over to the Lord.

"I would like to simply invite you to ask the Lord, in prayer, if He would like you to participate in helping the Mission."

Your response was exceptionally generous! **More than two hundred individuals and families responded bringing in over \$113,000.** That has

made a big difference over the last couple of months in the Mission's ability to function smoothly, to continue to develop, and to meet more easily the ordinary and extraordinary requests that come our way.

And while the majority of envelopes came from **the great state of Texas**, we also received donations from **Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.**

In addition to donations you sent us your encouragement, your prayers, and your prayer requests. (We continue to remember those before our Mass and during our times of adoration.)

And we thank you, all of you, for your donations, your intercession for us before the Lord, the sacrifices and suffering that you offer on our behalf. **With you we continue to give thanks to the Lord Most High for what still lies ahead and for the Mercies He is preparing for the whole world. ♦**

As MDM Grows: Our New Advisory Committees

As MDM grows and develops, the task of administering it well - while maintaining our primary spiritual focus - is challenging. To this end the fall of 2009 saw the formation of the MDM Advisory Committees. Staffed by lay friends and professionals, their purpose is to help lift the burden of administration from the shoulders of the Community. The Advisory Committees will assist in the areas of *finance and audit; building and equipment; development; and apostolates*.

Father John Mary: **"One benefit of being so small a community is that from the very beginning it has caused us to involve the laity more intensely, which is a healthy thing. This new structure helps us, the MDM community, to be faithful to our vocation of prayer and ministry, while at the same time making sure that all of the administrative tasks are well managed by those who have that competence."**

Overseeing the formation and activities of the committees is local businessman **Tim Brierty**.

"We first got to know Tim during our early years at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish," explains Fr. John Mary. **"More recently we approached him for help in finding an Executive Director and he offered his assistance in any way that would be helpful. When we asked if he, himself, would agree to inaugurate that position he said yes. Having someone of his caliber come on board was much more than we had hoped for and something that we could never have afforded financially."**

"Several years ago we were looking for a way to manage all of the different jobs and decisions required in overseeing the activity at the Mission without diverting too much energy from our prayer and ministry. Just as we felt that God supplied us with Dave Sommers at

that critical moment, so we feel that the arrival of Tim Brierty at this time is Providential."

Tim has served for nineteen years with the McKenna System, which operated a local hospital. For the last ten of those years he served as CEO. He was responsible for 900 team members and \$250 million in annual operating budget. Tim remained with the McKenna System after the sale of the hospital and is now responsible for \$100 million plus Foundation, and a 144 unit retirement community.

The Advisory Committee members, all volunteers, were chosen for their professional expertise and/or knowledge of the MDM community, as well as their willingness to serve. The committees are small, just three members each, plus a representative of the MDM community or their staff. Tim says that experience has taught him that small committees work more efficiently. **"Not as many calendars to consult."**

At the request of the Community, the committees tackle areas of concern such as tax law for non-profits; fund-raising; communications; or land preparation. They offer the Community their suggestions for a course of action, and, if given the go-ahead, in some cases help to carry it out.

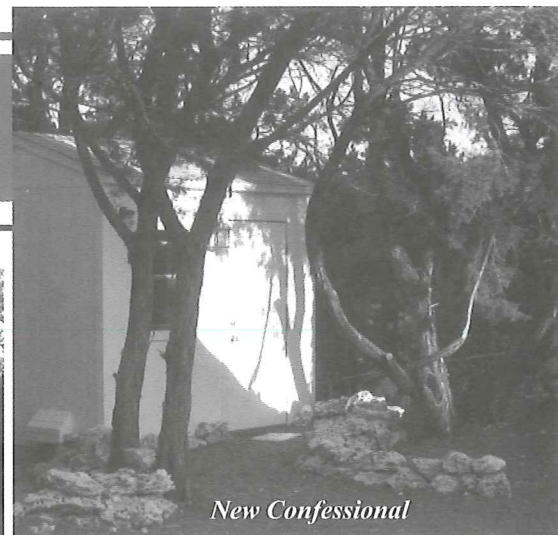
While the committees are still relatively new, their "To Do" lists are sizable. **"The Advisory Committees have already lifted a significant burden from our shoulders,"** say Fr. John Mary. **"But it is important to remind ourselves and them that the purpose in forming the committees was not just so that we could get more work accomplished. It was so that our commitment to prayer would not suffer, and that the work gets accomplished. They're helping the Mission be a better instrument of God's Mercy."** ♦



Project Update

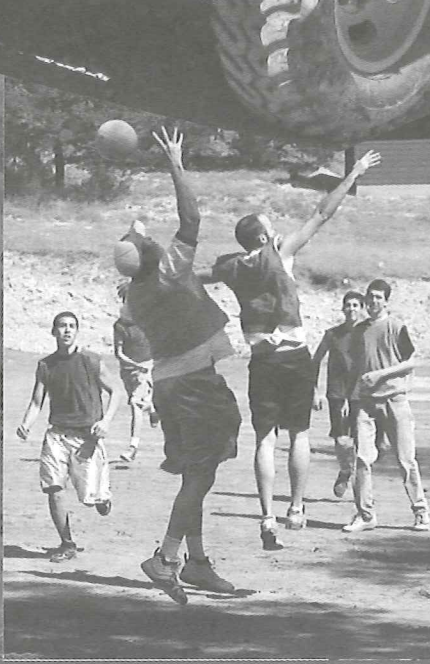
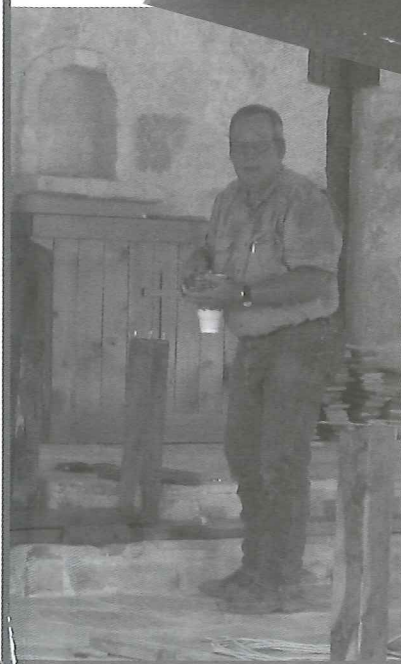
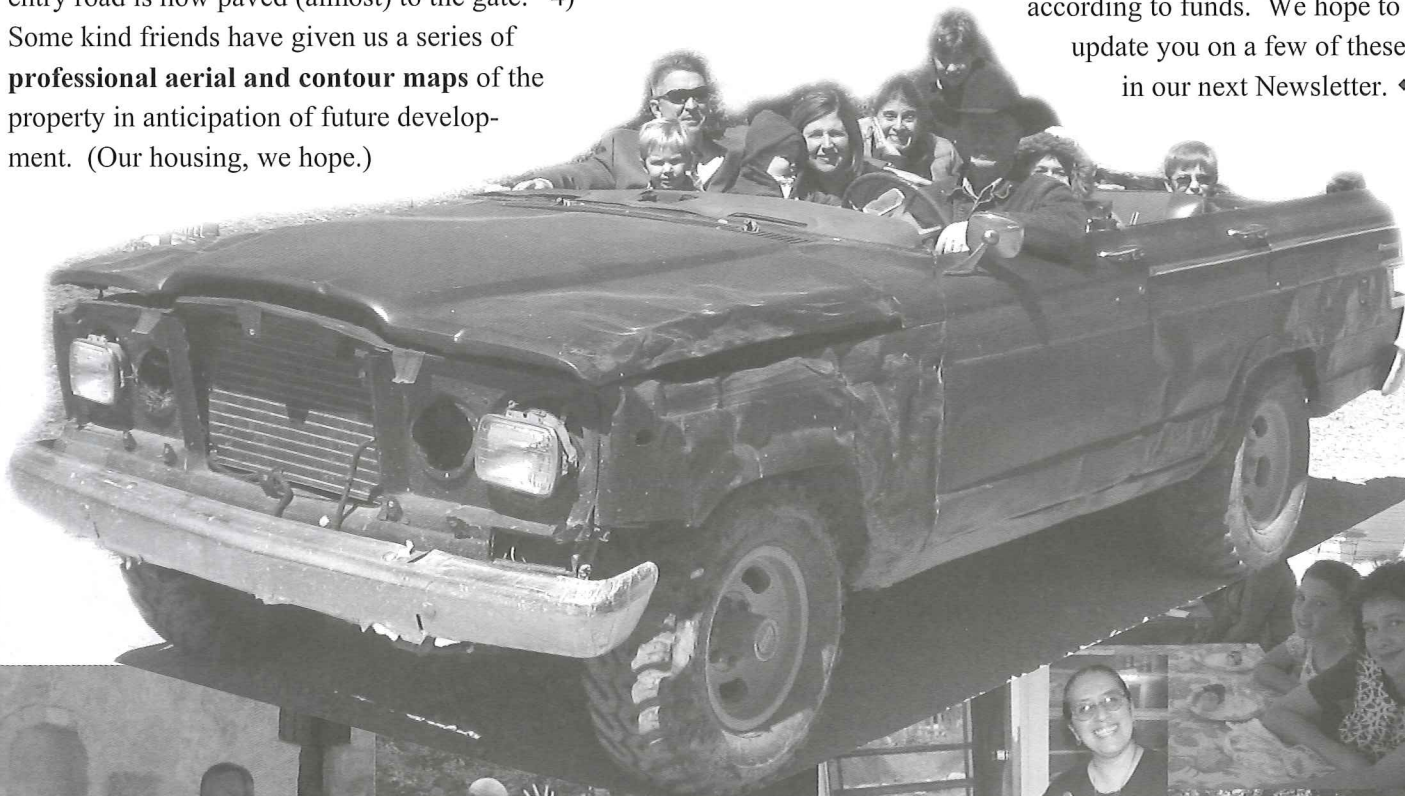
**Slowly but surely
we continue to move forward....**

Even though winter is a slow season construction-wise, 1) Dave managed to complete very handsomely our two new **enclosed confessionals**. You no longer have to endure the elements in order to receive His Mercy. 2) At Christmas we rejoiced in the comfort of our **newly insulated Chapel**. 3) **More blacktop**: the entry road is now paved (almost) to the gate. 4) Some kind friends have given us a series of **professional aerial and contour maps** of the property in anticipation of future development. (Our housing, we hope.)



New Confessional

There are several potential projects on the drawing board for the next few months. At the moment we are still in the process of prioritizing projects according to funds. We hope to update you on a few of these in our next Newsletter. ♦





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A Vision of St. Faustina

“In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw an Angel, the executor of divine wrath. He was clothed in a dazzling robe, his face gloriously bright, a cloud beneath his feet. From the cloud, bolts of thunder and flashes of lightning were springing into his hands; and from his hand they were going forth, and only then were they striking the earth. When I saw this sign of divine wrath which was about to strike the earth, and in particular a certain place, which for good reasons I cannot name, I began to implore the Angel to hold off for a few moments, and the world would do penance. But my plea was a mere nothing in the face of the divine anger.

Just then I saw the Most Holy Trinity. The greatness of Its majesty pierced me deeply, and I did not dare to repeat my entreaties. At that very moment I felt in my soul the power of Jesus' grace, which dwells in my soul. When I became conscious of this grace, I was instantly snatched up before the Throne of God...I found myself pleading with God for the world **with words heard interiorly.**

As I was praying in this manner, I saw the Angel's helplessness: he could not carry out the just punishment which was rightly due for sins. Never before had I prayed with such inner power as I did then. **The words with which I entreated God are these: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us.”** *(Diary, Nos. 474 & 475)*

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