

When the suffering is too much....

PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM THE LORD

By Fr. John Mary



Recently a young man I know approached me with a question. He has been going through a very hard time. And so the question: "If God exists and loves us, how come He lets us suffer so much?"

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Mission of Divine Mercy



Lent
2012, A.D.



Please join us
for our
Divine Mercy Sunday
Celebration

April 15

Mass
Veneration of the Image
Holy Hour

More details on page 19

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When the Suffering is too much....

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Yes, the age old question. But which still becomes painfully urgent again and again. Because with all the suffering in our wounded world, that question adds a terrifying cruelty. It threatens to separate us from the only One who can save us, and leave us like a drowning person abandoned by the hand it was reaching for. Maybe He doesn't care much about me... Or maybe love is too weak against evil... Or maybe He doesn't even really exist...

The Tempter knows well how to exploit this vulnerable state. Leaving us isolated. And it then becomes so easy to make very bad, desperate decisions which make a bad situation much worse. Like suicide.

So what can we do? It's an urgent question which needs a practical answer.

If you are busy or distracted right now, it might be helpful not to read further until you have some quiet time to reflect. That will make it easier to receive what our Lord's words can convey.

Some experiences of St. Faustina give us a practical answer. I hope this can be helpful for you. It's helpful for me to write this, because it is something that I, myself, always need to remember.

In January 1938, in the last year of her life, St Faustina recounts an experience she had during Mass [all emphases are mine]: “...*I saw the Lord Jesus in the midst of His sufferings, as though dying on the cross.*” She sometimes saw Him in His glory, but here as on many other occasions, He showed Himself in His suffering. He reveals something very helpful. He reveals to us that He is not a far away, impassive Deity, as we can always be tempted to think. But rather He is God Who has become one of us, accepting to suffer. To St Faustina, as to many other saints and mystics, He presents Himself as the One Whose suffering is not just of long ago, but is also mysteriously present to us today.

That simple light, that we have heard perhaps many times, begins to change everything. The temptation imagines Him far away from our sufferings.

He is not.

At all.

The prophet Isaiah even calls Him “*the man of sorrows*”.

“*He said to me, ‘My daughter, meditate frequently on the sufferings which I have undergone for your sake, and then nothing of what you suffer for Me will seem great to you. You please Me most when you meditate on My Sorrowful Passion.*’ ”

That's the very practical advice: “*meditate frequently on the sufferings which I have undergone for your sake.*” By doing that we turn our attention to His Passion. We thus are putting our spirit in contact with His Passion. That might seem the last thing that we want to do when we're suffering. It might seem just more depressing. But there are graces which flow from His Passion.

The Lord went on to ask Her something more: “*‘Join your little sufferings to My Sorrowful Passion, so that they may have infinite value before My Majesty.’* ” (Diary 151)]

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Another time, in July of 1937, she recounts *"In the evening, I saw the Lord Jesus upon the cross. From His hands, feet and side, the Most Sacred Blood was flowing. After some time, Jesus said to me, 'All this is for the salvation of souls. Consider well, My daughter, what you are doing for their salvation.' "*

What a question.... Imagine Him asking you that. What are we doing for the salvation of souls? How important is that to us? A minor point, maybe, if we have time after all our other priorities?

For Him, it's all His life.

"I answered, 'Jesus, when I look at Your suffering, I see that I am doing next to nothing for the salvation of souls.' And the Lord said to me, 'Know, My daughter, that your silent day-to-day martyrdom in complete submission to My Will ushers many souls into heaven.' "

He reveals that actually, the value of what she is doing is much greater than she realizes.

"'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.'" (Diary 1184)

A very important teaching. Meditating, contemplating His passion is not some sort of useless pious exercise for those who have the luxury. He says it permits us to rise above the weight of human scorn. Even above all things! And He knows something about scorn and pain....

One final example. She writes, *"It was four days after my perpetual vows. I was trying to make a Holy Hour. ... After a moment, I saw the Lord, all covered with wounds; and He said to me, 'Look at Whom you have espoused.' I understood the meaning of these words and answered the Lord, 'Jesus, I love You more when I see You wounded and crushed with suffering like this than if I saw You in majesty.' Jesus asked, 'Why?' I replied, 'Great majesty terrifies me, little nothing that I am, and Your wounds draw me to Your Heart and tell me of Your great love for me.' "*

From Jesus crucified comes the balm of His Love. And we need Love more than anything else. She experiences this mysterious attraction from wounds which might repel us. But they attract when we realize they reveal His Love.

"... I fixed my gaze upon His sacred wounds and felt happy to suffer with Him. I suffered, and yet I did not suffer, because I felt happy to know the depth of His love...." (252)

The amazing power of "fixing her gaze on His wounds" which permits her to find happiness even in this suffering....

This is not always easy to do. It is often a struggle. There is a part in us which rejects this suffering and wants to turn away from His Passion. But when we are suffering, we can encounter grace precisely there, in turning to Jesus crucified. As St Paul says: *"...we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."*

"'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.'" (Diary 1184) ✕

A Great Blessing!

\$250,000 GRANT AWARD FROM THE BIRCH FOUNDATION

For the second year in a row MDM has been the recipient of a very generous grant from **the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation**. These two grants have played a primary role in allowing us to pursue our goal of moving our living quarters to the Mission. We are very grateful to the Birch Foundation.

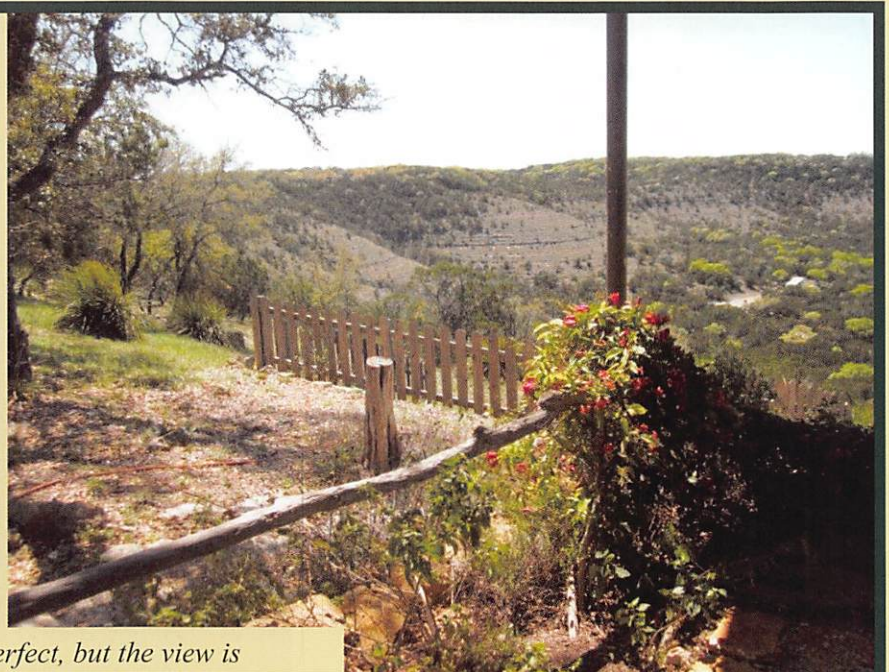
This year's \$250,000 award will help fund renovations on the two properties recently purchased for Community housing; the first stage of our **Building A Home for Mercy capital campaign**. Once renovations are completed (this summer, God willing), our Community will finally be able to *begin living and praying at the Mission* rather than commuting there for scheduled events.

The two properties, one for the brothers and one for the sisters, were purchased with down payments made possible by our

original Birch Foundation award. When the renovations of both properties are finalized, they will be able to house twelve persons each, making it possible for us to *receive new vocations*, another long anticipated goal.

When the Community is finally in residence at the Mission, the next goal of our capital campaign will be to raise funds for the Msgr. O'Callaghan Retreat Center. As we receive more groups and individuals at the Mission, the need for adequate facilities becomes ever more pressing.

Please keep this process in your prayers. And join us in giving thanks for all that the Lord, the Birch Foundation and so many of you has already made possible. These first ten years of the Mission, despite the struggles, seem like a continual manifestation of the Father's loving providence. ♦



The house isn't perfect, but the view is

Our Most Important Building Project Ever: **A GROWING NETWORK OF TRUST IN JESUS**

By Fr. John Mary

I was sitting in the chapel last September trying to pray. Trying. But feeling overwhelmed. Our capital campaign to construct adequate facilities was in its early stages. The need to create at the Mission a Sanctuary of His Mercy was urgent. There were so many, many projects needing our time, energy and money---but MDM is small and poor, with few resources. And many of our friends are in a similar situation. Money is tight. How to move forward? Then the thought came to me.

Build by trust. In Jesus.

And the more people who unite in doing so, the greater the strength. *A network of trust spreading out from this Mission.*

To participate doesn't take money, just an act of the soul. Often the poor and the little are the richest in trust.

And whoever participates is drawing down Grace upon themselves...their loved ones...our world. United by this divine bond of trust in the Lord, together we are forming **a network of trust**, supporting each other. The more we can spread it, the more everyone benefits.

That's how the *Building by Trust* effort began. I had been praying about buildings made of concrete and wood. But God was leading me toward a much more important building effort—one that will have far more important and lasting results.



It is based on the simple prayer *given by our Lord Himself* to St. Faustina that appears at the bottom of the Divine Mercy Image. It is an invitation to everyone to join us in **praying “Jesus, I trust in You,” ten times a day**; either all at once or spread throughout the day. It takes less than a minute. It is that simple. Yet powerful.

As a sign of this network that links us, we invite those participating to **send us their names** so that we can add it the list on our website. Our goal was to have 1000 people making these 10 daily Acts of Trust by Divine Mercy Sunday, 2012. As of this writing (March 21st) there are over 1200 names on the list. We have exceeded our goal and are still growing!

We are already seeing the fruits of this effort at our Mission.: *In the six months since this effort began the Mission has experienced an unprecedented period of growth and apostolic activity.*

The Community began to tell people about this effort. We announced it at Mass. We put it in our newsletter, on our website and in our weekly e-mails. We told the people coming on retreat to the Mission about it. We placed an advertisement in the diocesan newspaper and a large ad in the National Catholic Register. Guadalupe Radio, the local Catholic network, created a public service announcement to bring the effort to people’s attention.

We asked people to take part in it, and to spread the word among their friends and families. This is a simple prayer that can be said by people of every age and physical condition. It is a prayer that isn’t limited to Catholics, but can be said by anyone who believes in Christ.

The response has been very encouraging. The e-mails and phone calls that we receive daily from people express a heartfelt desire to join with others in pulling down God’s graces for our poor world. We have received word from families, prayer groups, cenacles, parish secretaries, deacons, young people, very young people, the elderly

and infirm, people of every profession, and even a man in prison. They have contacted us from across the United States, Mexico, South America, Europe and the island of Jamaica. By adding their names to the list these people are connected in spirit and prayer with the Mission, and with all the other people who are joined in this effort.

And as difficult recent events take place in our government and our country, we believe that this prayer can also be prayed in union with the efforts of our bishops and all those defending religious liberty for all people.

The response has been so positive and the blessings so abundant that we feel this effort needs to continue long after Divine Mercy Sunday. However, **on Divine Mercy Sunday the Community will pray at Mass and during the Holy Hour especially for all those whose names appear on the Building By Trust list.**

“JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.” The words are simple, but they say what needs to be said. We invite you not only to join us in making these daily Acts of Trust but also to offer this blessing to others. Please spread this opportunity. If you wish to have your name added to the list call us at 830-905-4515, or send an e-mail to mdm@missionofdivinemercy.org. To see the list of people who are already participating, go to our website www.missionofdivinemercy.com and click on LIST under the “Announcements” column.

✱ ✱ ✱

***“I am offering people a vessel
with which they are to keep coming for
graces to the fountain of mercy.
That vessel is this Image
with the signature:
“Jesus I trust in You.”
(Our Lords words to St. Faustina)***

OUR NAME IS MUD....

My Experience of Our 10th Anniversary Celebration

By Emily Jebbia

During the past year and a half Central Texas experienced the worst drought in its recorded history. So why did God decide to let it rain for the 24 hours preceding MDM's 10th Anniversary Celebration on December 3rd?

You might reply, as one friend of mine did, that it was God's way of marking just how special this event was by delivering that very, very rare rain as a sign of His blessing.

But those were not my thoughts as I woke at 5:30 AM on December 3 to the sound of a hard downpour outside. My thoughts were nowhere near so spiritual.

We had been preparing for this event for two months. The last event with this much logistical preparation had been the celebration of Father Moses' ordination in 2007.

But we didn't know how many to plan for. Would there be 70 or 700? How big a tent would be required? How many chairs did we need? How many cars to plan for? How much food?

As a rule we don't have catered events at the Mission. All the meals are turned out by Maria Felicitas and her team of loyal volunteers. But this time we didn't want Maria to be working, and the decision was made to have a simple catered meal. So the possible number of people was a big point of discussion at our planning meetings. **Finally we settled on preparing for 400 people...**having no real data to base that on. It was just a hope and our best guesstimation.

We would be feeding people under a big rented tent that had been set up on the large open area of our dirt parking lot. After the solemn Holy Hour of Thanksgiving we had planned to process from St. Joseph's with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance, following the lower road that winds around the entrance to the Mission, and ending at St. Michael's Hall. *There in the new Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament we'd inaugurate the permanent Eucharistic Presence of Jesus at the Mission.*

But nothing at the Mission is paved, and everything was threatened by this hard steady rain.

We had been watching the weather reports for a few weeks. The reports had been saying that there was a good chance of rain. But they had been teasing us with those reports for months here in Central Texas, and the promise always evaporated as the day drew closer. But as the date drew near the threat of rain remained. Dave Sommers monitored the threat, adopting a "wait and see" attitude. After all, it hadn't rained much in months.

The big tent was not supposed to arrive until Friday, but the tent company was also monitoring the weather. They decided to come out and put it up on Thursday, along with the extra side tent for St. Joseph's Chapel.

Friday morning started out grey and overcast. Midway through the morning the rain started coming down. We are a small work crew at the Mission and we had each been work-

ing flat out for the last ten days to cover all that needed to be done. I despaired at the sight of the rain, but my work kept me chained to my desk all day. Finally around 4:30 I went to the big tent.

With hand shovels and a back hoe, Dave Sommers and Bill Wylie were working hard to try to prevent the water from flowing into the tent and across the earthen floor, turning it into a sea of mud. Forty round tables and 400 chairs were pushed over to the side, waiting to be set in place. As I stood in the damp, dark space, I looked at Dave who could only shrug and say: "We have to see what tonight brings. If the rain stops, we will be okay. If it doesn't..." He didn't really finish the sentence.

But the rain didn't stop. And at 6:15 AM the next morning, with my first cup of coffee in hand, I called Dave. I knew that he was undoubtedly already out, surveying the damage. He answered immediately.



“How is it?” I asked.

“A muddy mess.”

We both were silent for a few moments.

“Okay, Dave, what about mulch? What if we spread loads of mulch to cover the mud?”

“We would need a lot of mulch and we would need it right away.”

“Let me see who I can call.”

I thought about who had a pick-up truck and who I could call before 7 AM on a Saturday morning. **I called Sam, Mike and Dennis.** Sam was groggy but awake, Mike was already out at the grocery store and Dennis’ voice mail picked up my call.

I told each of them the situation and asked if they could bring a truck load of mulch. Sam and Mike agreed immediately. Dennis, when he listened to my message, might just choose to ignore it, and I wouldn’t blame him.

I put on old jeans and old boots and went down to the tent. Large areas of the interior floor space were wet and muddy. And so was the larger parking lot area around the tent. And so were the playing fields where we were going to park all the cars. Dave was already hard at work repairing the berms that let the water through, and **David Reed** was helping him.

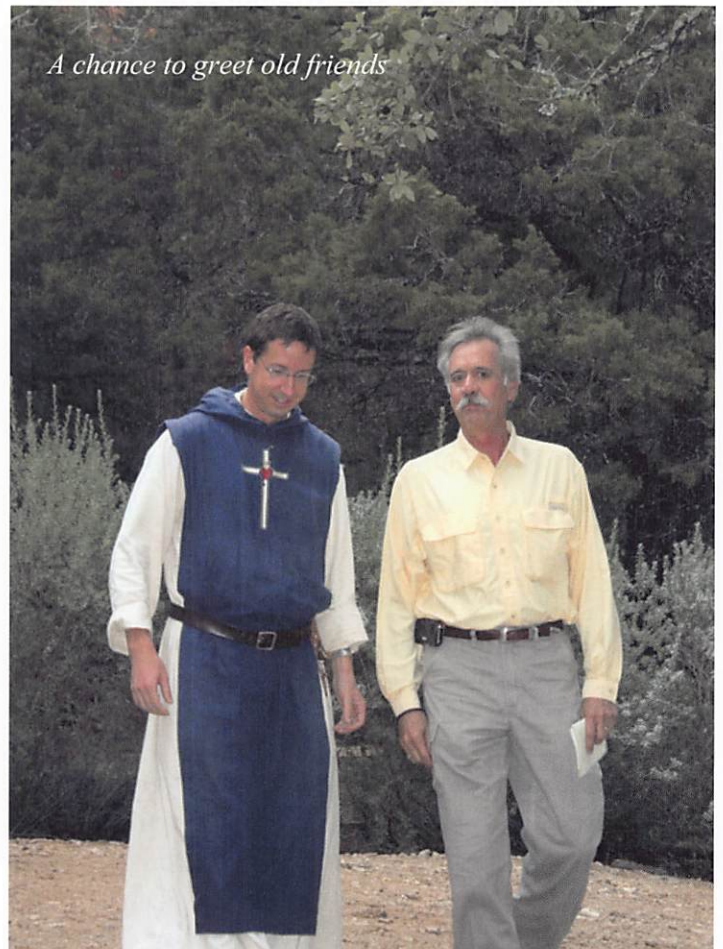
While we waited for the mulch to arrive I picked up a shovel and started creating another ditch to drain the water away from the tent and over to the side of the parking lot. Anything to feel useful. Anything to try to salvage the day. Thick layers of mud were clinging to our boots. Walking on the slippery ground was treacherous. None of us said much. It was pretty depressing.

But while I worked I kept up a running silent conversation with God. An on-going conversation that we had been having for the last two days. *“Okay, God, I know that You are in charge*

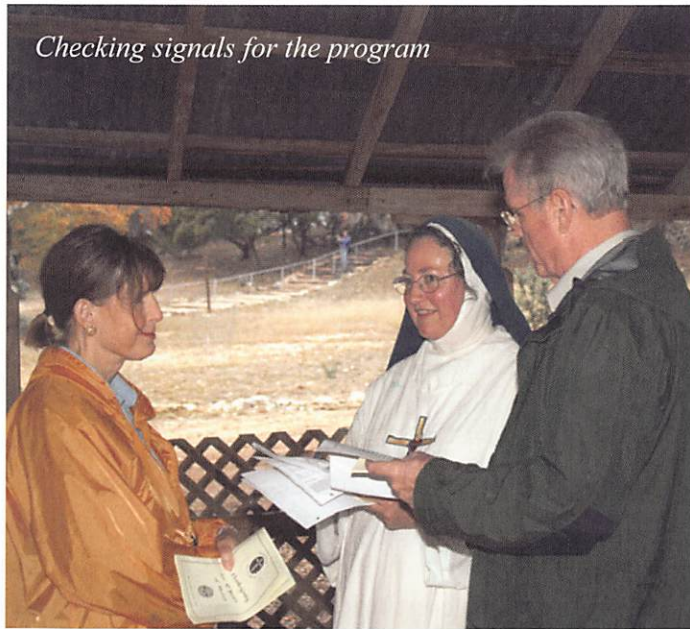
here and that there is a reason for this. It wouldn’t have to be raining right now if You didn’t want it to be. So this all has a purpose. But I sure don’t understand it. We have been working so hard to make this a nice day for the Community and all who come here to pray and celebrate with us. Why in the middle of the worst drought in Texas history, do we have to be faced with this sea of mud? I don’t want to complain about rain, but couldn’t it have waited till 9 PM to-night?”

Sam arrived with his pick-upload of mulch. Mike was not far behind with another truckload. **Ellen** came with her two teen-aged sons **Hal** and **Bowie.** **Paul** arrived with rakes and shovels. We backed the first pick-up into the tent and began spreading mulch in a thick absorbent layer. It was definitely making a difference, but we were going to need more. A lot more.

Then the cavalry arrived in the form of a phone call from Dennis.



A chance to greet old friends



He had contacted **John**, a colleague who owns commercial dump trucks, and was having a load of mulch delivered. One load from the commercial truck was many times the load of the smaller pick-ups. **The dump truck rumbled in and we all gratefully began spreading mulch.** But the muddy ground just kept calling for more. We had to cover the larger area outside the tent, and create safe walking areas from St. Joseph's Chapel to the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All in all, John brought **three dump truck loads of mulch.** That's a lot of mulch! And we spread it all. Our backs were aching and our palms were blistered.

The Community members arrived on the scene having celebrated morning Mass. Fr. John Mary said afterwards, **"I arrived to find some of the more prominent business leaders in New Braunfels splattered with mud and spreading mulch."** I prayed that nobody would have a heart attack or throw their back out, and just kept spreading mulch.

Another side-effect of all the rain was that our parking plans were thrown into disarray. Plan A had been to park the cars in our two recreation fields. However these were now just vast squares of mud. Spreading mulch in these areas wasn't an option. So Dave and crew had to go to Plan B: park the cars in any available grassy area.

Later that afternoon I stood with the choir in the back of St. Joseph's Chapel waiting for the Holy Hour to begin. The rain had actually stopped earlier in the day but it was still overcast, grey, damp; with mud wherever the mulch had run out. **And I felt a sense of disappointment that there was not a better turn out. The chapel was about two-thirds full, maybe 100 people.** Yes, it was a rainy day. Yes, it was a Saturday afternoon in December. Yes, the Mission is not the easiest place to get to. But I had been hoping for more. I had wanted the Community to be pleased.

As I knelt for the beginning of adoration I thought about how much food might not get eaten that day. Oh well, we had planned for that eventuality also. That's what freezers are for. But I hated the thought of our big tent looking sort of empty as our little crowd filed in and took their seats, leaving so many blank tables.

We sang; we prayed before the Eucharist; the Community members took turns leading us in the decades of the Divine Mercy Chaplet; Fr. Moses led us in prayerful reflections from *The Diary of St. Faustina*. **And people kept coming ... in couples; in twos and threes; and in families. By the end of the Holy Hour both the Chapel and the side tent had filled up.**

The priests and servers then filed out of the Chapel with Father John Mary carrying the





at the Mission this would be their place of daily prayer.

Because of the muddy road conditions, the route was revised and shortened so that we proceeded directly from St. Joseph's to the new Chapel.

The new Chapel is small, seating about thirty. But for that day we had opened the back doors so that it could extend into the larger St. Michael's Hall. And as the choir sang to greet the arrival of the Eucharist, and as the people filed in, **I was really surprised to see the line of people continue and continue until the whole of the Chapel and the Hall were filled.** The whole space was crowded with people in respectful, joyful welcome of the Presence of God in His new Home.

Fr. John Mary said later that it wasn't until he turned around and processed out of the Chapel that he had any sense of how many people had arrived.

After the enthronement we all went to the tent, which far from being empty, seemed to be filled to capacity. Later Cathy who was handling the catering said that we fed approximately **400 people!**

Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance followed by the congregation. **This was the central focus of the entire event crowning these first ten years.** *The Eucharist, the Real Presence, was being carried in procession to the newly created Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament where Jesus would be enthroned in the Tabernacle as the King of Mercy.*

After seven years of owning the property but not living there, of having the Eucharist present only on weekends, of having a mostly open-air chapel, the Mission was finally going to have a Chapel in which Jesus could be continually present. When the Community was living





The day, despite glitches, turned out wonderfully. And the rain certainly heightened the *esprit de corps* of the Home Team. But beyond mud and stress and logistics, beyond prayer and processions and menus, the heart of the matter – the real significance of the day – is perhaps best summed up in the experience of a friend of ours. Please read the accompanying story....♦



Our friend Chuck Bloom reading the September issue of our Newsletter

Our New Chapel

of the Most Blessed Sacrament

MDM is, in a special way, centered on Our Lord's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. But since we are not yet living at the Mission, we have only had the Blessed Sacrament there when we are present for specific activities.

This fall, with the purchase of the two houses and with plans to finally live out there being realized, we wondered what we could use as our daily Chapel. St. Joseph's Chapel wouldn't work because of size and heating and cooling issues.

Eventually we want to build a worthy Chapel. But what to do in the meantime? We decided we would convert the small conference room of St. Michael's Hall.

But less than a month before the date of the Anniversary Celebration Fr Moses asked, "Could

it be ready for Dec. 3rd? Could we inaugurate Jesus' permanent Presence on that date?" The idea attracted us. That would be a fitting way to celebrate our 10th anniversary, focused on Him. But that didn't leave us much time....

As we have done so many times, we called on our friend Tim Sutherland – pilot, artist, craftsman, Texan, etc.. With his usual smile, and a little chin-rubbing, he went into high gear. Despite a couple of other project deadlines, he quickly came up with a handsome design to transform the conference room into a Chapel. With little time and in a small space, Tim designed and built a special altar and handsome backdrop that transformed a wall into a sanctuary. We knew there wouldn't be time to complete the whole project, but this was the essential part. Working hard with Dave Sommers and Bill Wylie they managed, to our amaze-

ment, to finish things on time. On the morning of Dec. 3rd we were arranging flowers in our new Chapel.

Establishing a permanent Eucharistic Chapel at the Mission was like having labored for a long time to build a House for a great and respected Client. And then finally having Him say, "Well done. It's ready. I will take possession of it and dwell here."

Or as Jesus says to the Sinful Soul in the Diary of St. Faustina:

"Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth – the tabernacle – and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace." (No. 1485)

And it is not lost on us that the inspiration and impetus for this signature Grace occurred after you had begun to pray daily with us, "JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU."

One Person's Experience....

Below is an excerpt from an account by one of the people who attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration. It is an account of this person's experience at the Enthronement of the Real Presence in the new chapel.

"...Something happened to me last Saturday when we entered the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The moment I looked at the Tabernacle, I felt a strong, profound, overwhelming sense of the Presence of God. I feel so inadequate as to how to even begin to convey how strong that sense was. As I looked at the Tabernacle, I felt the Presence of God enter into the new chapel.

I hadn't really given much thought to what it meant when Fr. John Mary talked to us about "enthroning the Blessed Sacrament," but as I watched him place the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, I "knew" that this was **momentous, huge, a Mystery above our understanding**. I knew that none of us have the ability to really understand the importance of what had just happened; that we see it as a simple thing, but it really isn't. I felt that I had to prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament before I left, though I tried to be as inconspicuous as possible as I did that. I wanted to stay there, in front of what I now understand is the throne of God in our midst.

I'm sorry that I don't have the words or ability to convey the significance, the depth, and the reality of this. It is a Gift that we may not be able to understand. But I do know that the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is a sacred place, and that we have to deal with it so tenderly and so reverently." ♦



MDM Journal: *New Decade, New Stage*

By Mother Magdalene

As we move into this second decade as MDM, we are noticing a fundamental change.

During our first ten years - even as we initiated our apostolates, purchased land, began some modest construction, and established our canonical status within the Archdiocese - the primary sense within our Community was one of quietly planting, deepening, putting down roots which were often hidden.

Something is now shifting and changing.

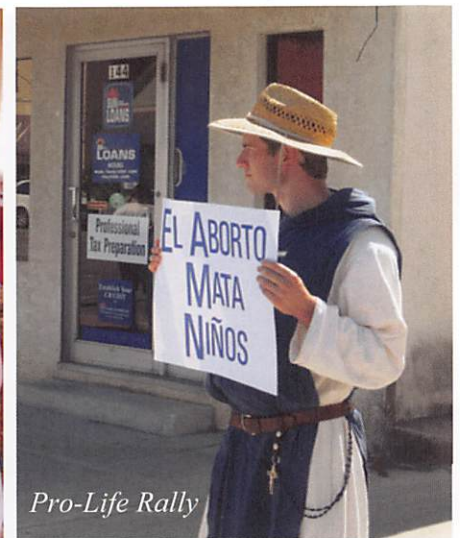
Increasingly we have the sense of shoots springing up; of seeds beginning to germinate; of the Lord bringing about a new stage of growth. The establishment of *the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament* and the purchase of Community housing are both manifestations of this change. Another is the dramatic increase in different groups for events at the Mission. It used to be that once a month we would reserve a Saturday morning for a special group. Now we look hard to find a weekend without an event. [SEE SIDE-BAR]

We also participated in several events outside the Mission this winter.

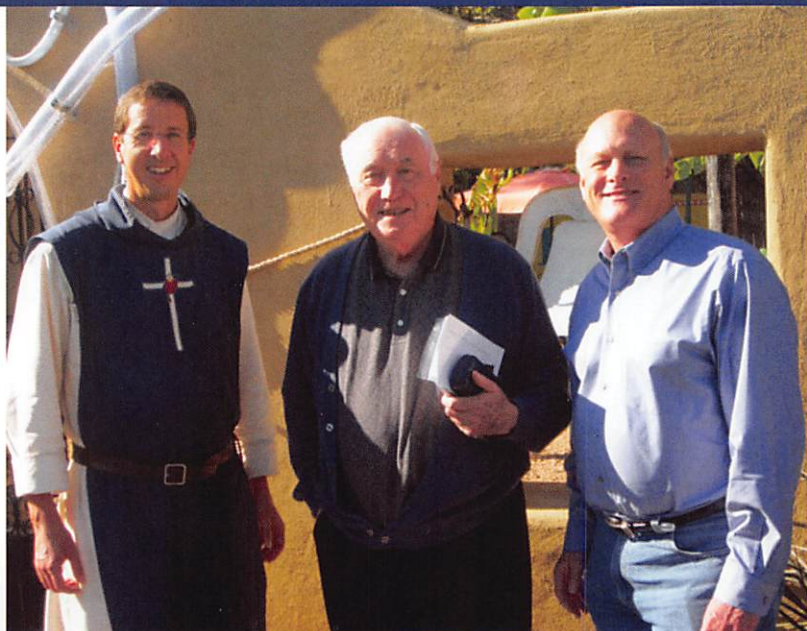
At the invitation of Archbishop Gustavo, we had the pleasure of attending a premiere of the

new movie CRISTIADA which will open in theaters across the country in April. While it plays in many ways like a Hollywood action film (i.e., those with no religious convictions could still enjoy the movie) this story of the government persecution of the Church in Mexico in the 1920's-30's, the heroic rise of the Cristeros Movement to defend the Faith, and their resulting martyrdom is definitely worth going to see.

Other events included a Holy Hour and dinner with the Houston Legatus Chapter; the archdiocesan celebration for Consecrated Life at Assumption Seminary; the Priests' participation in the Good Shepherds, Good Leaders Program sponsored by the Archdiocese; our participation in the Pro-life Mass and March held at St. Mary Magdalene's Parish in San Antonio, and at the Rally at the Capitol in Austin; helping with the John Paul II High School Retreat for Junior Boys at the HEB Camp; speaking to classes at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Selma, about religious life; and attending the annual Seminarians' Dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Meanwhile, Fr. Moses continues to keep a very busy schedule assisting the Latin Mass Congregation at St. Pius X Parish in San Antonio on weekends. ♦



Pro-Life Rally



Groups received in recent months:

- **Women's Act Team, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, NB**
- **Familias Unidas en Cristo, St. Rose of Lima Parish, San Antonio (Spanish)**
- **Catholic Daughters, St. Joseph's, Honey Creek**
- **Freshmen Boys' Retreat, John Paul II High School**
- **Divine Mercy Congress Team Retreat (Spanish)**
- **St. Thomas Parish Confirmandi, Canyon Lake**
- **Las Guadalupanas Group, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Seguin**
- **RCIA Group, St. Pius X Parish, San Antonio**
- **Men's Acts Team, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish**
- **Five men from Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, making their retreat in preparation for their ordination to the Diaconate**
- **The Mission also sponsored three Lenten half-day retreats on Divine Mercy, two in English and one in Spanish.**

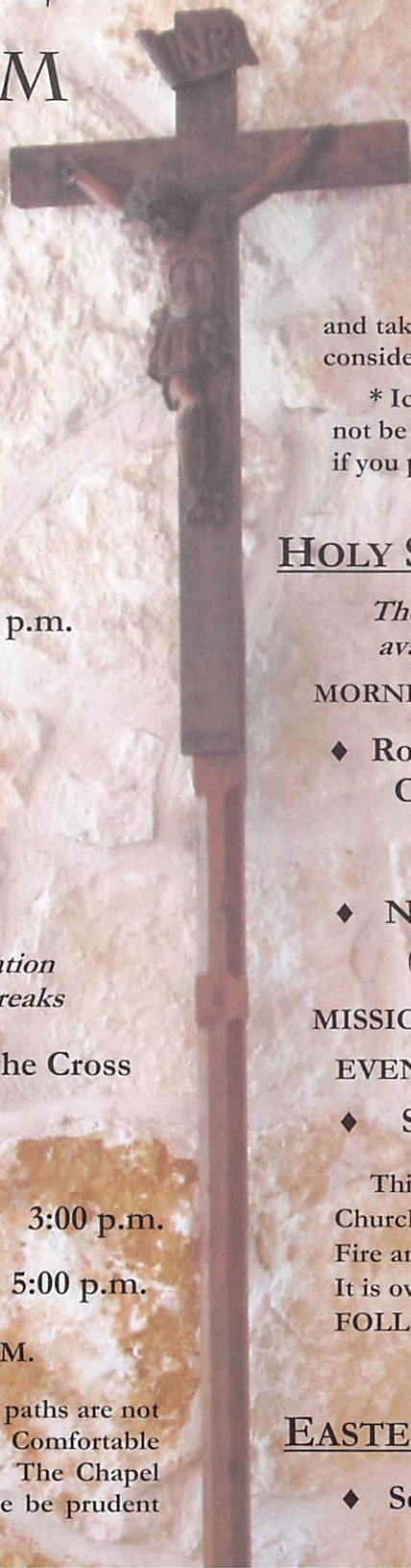


From Assumption Seminary



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Retreat 2012



*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 April 1st.

- ◆ Solemn Mass 10:30 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY April 5

(bring a flashlight)

- ◆ Mass of the Institution of
the Eucharist 7:00 p.m.

Procession to the Altar of Repose

Eucharistic Adoration

Celebration ends at 10:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY April 6

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 CLOSSES AT 6:00 P.M.

Our facilities are very rustic. The paths are not paved and the ground is uneven. Comfortable shoes and sun hat may be needed. The Chapel and dining tent are open air. Please be prudent

and take the weather and your state of health into consideration.

* 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 7

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

MORNING:

- ◆ Rosary and meditations in honor of
Our Lady of Sorrows 9:00 a.m.

Quiet time

- ◆ Novena of Divine Mercy 11:00 a.m.
(Second day)

MISSION CLOSSES AT NOON

EVENING (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 extensive series of Scriptural readings. It is over two hours in length **NO RECEPTION FOLLOWS**

EASTER SUNDAY April 8

- ◆ Solemn Mass 10:30 a.m.

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 15, 2012

"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)

Solemn Mass 10:30 a.m.

Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy
will begin after Mass and continue
until the beginning of the Holy Hour

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
from the end of Mass until 2:00 p.m.*

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

A Special Promise of Mercy*

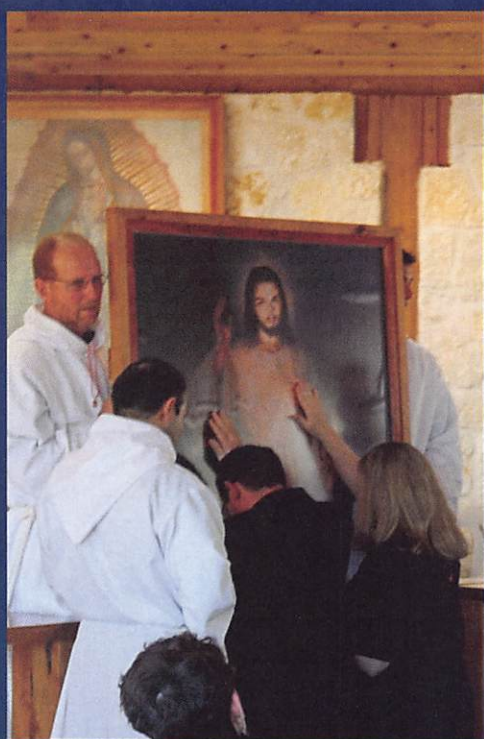
"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary, No. 699)

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

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

Please note:

- ◆ A light lunch will be available under the tent following Mass.
- ◆ If you plan to stay at the Mission, we would appreciate it if you could RSVP for a head count by Easter Monday, by calling (830) 905-4515 or (830) 899-3444 or E-MAIL: mdm@missionofdivinemercy.org
- ◆ You are also welcome to bring your own picnic lunch, or to drive to one of the local restaurants, and to return later for Holy Hour.
- ◆ Cold drinks will be available under the tent after the Holy Hour.
- ◆ We ask that anyone wishing to go on a hike, either as a group or individually while at the Mission, register with us first for safety reasons. A registration table will be set up with all necessary information.
- ◆ The Mission will open at 9:30 a.m. and will close at 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Our facilities are very rustic. The paths are not paved and the ground is uneven. Comfortable shoes and sun hat may be needed. The chapel and dining tent are open air. Please be prudent and take the weather and your state of health into consideration.





Mission of Divine Mercy
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