

Mission of Divine Mercy

December 2020



“...While all things were in quiet silence,
and the night was in the midst of her swift course,
Thy Almighty Word leapt down....”
(Wisdom 18:14-15)



The Mother of God has taught me how to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. She said to me: **My daughter, strive after silence and humility, so that Jesus, who dwells in your heart continuously, may be able to rest.** Adore Him in your heart; do not go out from your inmost being.... I shall obtain for you the grace of an interior life which will be such that, without ever leaving that interior life, you will be able to carry out all your external duties with even greater care. Dwell with Him continuously in your heart. He will be your strength. (*Diary of St. Faustina #785*)

HIS COMING IN TRIUMPH:

THE TIME OF GREAT WAITING

Advent Meditation by Fr. John Mary

With each passing year, the mission to prepare for the Coming of the Lord becomes more urgent. Our personal experience of Advent is often swamped with and diluted by the “Christmasy” preparations of the world. Yet Advent has its own special grace, a grace that is especially necessary now.

The latter part of Advent prepares us to celebrate the first coming of the Lord in Bethlehem. **But the first part of Advent calls us to prepare for His Future Coming, His coming in Triumph.**

As I write this in early November, asking the Lord in prayer for inspiration for this newsletter, the sense that comes to me most strongly is His future Coming in Triumph. **Advent reminds us that we are living the time of Great Waiting. The Great Desert.**

AGITATION / TRUST

When a glass full of water and mud is shaken, mixed up, it becomes cloudy, murky, all the particles in chaos, until the water and the mud settle. Then all the particles return to their proper place and the water becomes clear again.

It is the same in our hearts, and in the world.

There is so much agitation, confusion, chaos right now; promoted, stirred up by the Enemy, as a means to separate God’s children from Him.

Even within ourselves we can see this. How many voices there are telling us what to think, what to do, how to feel, how to act. **How many things have been mixed up — apparent good mixed with evil, and vice versa — making it impossible for us, His children, to hear Him, to see Him, to discern His Truth and choose justly to do His Will.**

The Enemy uses **fear** to promote this agitation in the souls of God’s little ones. This is why

the **acts of faith and trust** are *imperative*, of absolute necessity, in order to see clearly and justly.

Trust quiets the soul, letting things settle into their proper place, making the separation between what is His and what is the Enemy’s more evident. As the mud settles to the bottom, it leaves clear water above it.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

This phrase is our battle cry.

God is training us so that whatever we see before us, whatever we hear around us, these words shall come forth from our hearts as the great battle cry that destroys the works and seductions of the Enemy. This cry strikes fear in their ranks.

It is in us now, **but it must grow until it is a deafening roar.**

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

By faith we know that he who waits for the Lord will surely find Him.

The Lord will come to him.

He who desires His Will shall accomplish it.

He who believes *the Lord* shall live, nothing shall conquer him or separate him from the Lord. (*Romans 8:31-39*)

THE TIME OF MERCY FOLLOWED BY THE TIME OF JUSTICE

As the Lord said to St. Faustina, we are living in the Time of Mercy. This time is passing but must reach its culmination before it ushers in, as He told her, the Time of Justice.

We cannot imagine what this culmination will be. But we know that He will not be outdone. As plentiful as our wounds are, so infinitely more is His Mercy to heal them. As dead as some souls are, so infinitely more His Mercy shall be to bring them back to life.

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy is everlasting.” (Ps. 136)

Only trusting in His Mercy, **only faith in Him, true living faith** can bridge the times of Mercy and Justice and lead us into a Renewed Church and Renewed Earth.

**TO TEACH OTHERS TO TRUST,
TO BELIEVE, WE MUST LIVE IT FIRST**

In order to sow the seed, we must carry it first.

Every second of the waiting, every act of faith or trust that we make - when all is so dark, painful, confusing, exhausting - is the opening of furrows in the souls of His children. All the tears of agony are the showers that water and prepare the soul.

This is the work that we can help Him do in these times.

Sow trust. Sow faith. Sow hope.

He will plant. He will hasten the growth. He will bring to maturity, and He will harvest. And none shall despoil Him.

**SENSING THAT HIS TIME
HAS COME**

A good General knows when to act and when to wait.

Trust God.

His Armies shall soon be joined. And the liberating trumpet shall sound.

We all need *Divine Hope*. Mere human hopes lead to fear, disappointment, failure, despair.

Each of us needs to put our hand in His and let God lead. He is the only one who knows the right path.

If we try to use our human criteria to discern these times, we will fail and become vulnerable to the Enemy's attacks.

We need to surround ourselves and others with Faith.

What we do for ourselves, we do for the many.

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE

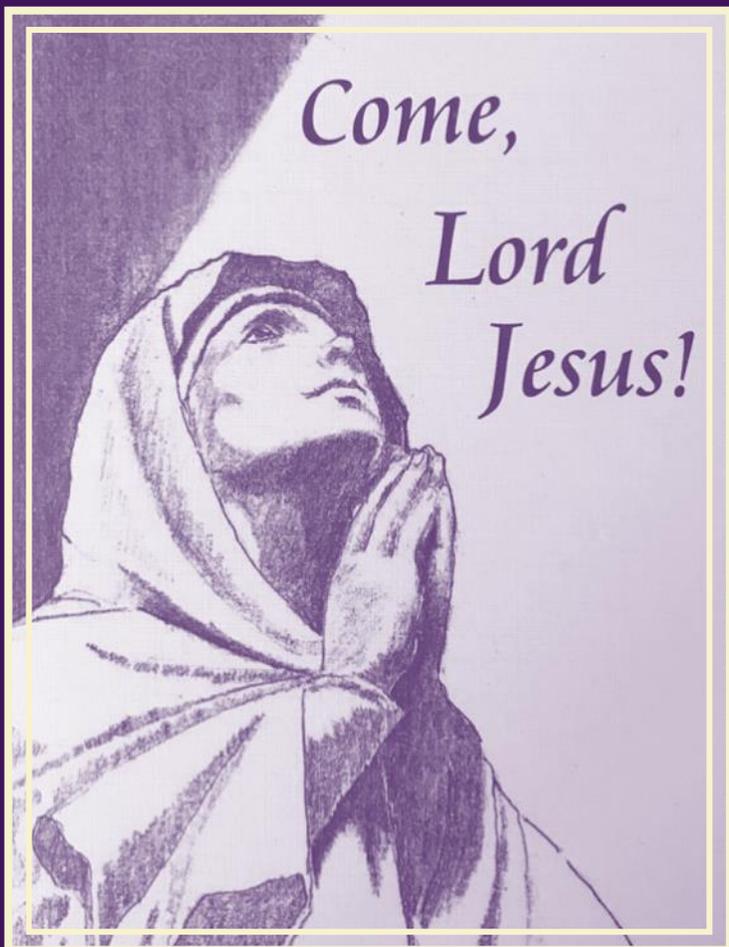
We are approaching Advent and Christmas-tide, the time when we recall the Birth of Jesus. If we try to see with the eyes of Faith, the Faith He wants to plant in us, we shall see how the fulfillment of *that Promise* came about through **absolute Faith and Obedience**.

It is the same now.

What follows night? **Day.**

What comes after the storm? **Calm.**

How do we endure both? **Faith.**



Faith, so that God can act.

Jesus, we trust in You.

Amen.

He is coming.

He is here.

Wait, and we shall see.

Endure, and we shall receive.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!



HOME BY A DIFFERENT ROUTE

Years ago in a Motherhouse Chapel far far away an elderly Priest was celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. After reading the Gospel he reflected on one phrase from the account of the Journey of the Magi. He noted that after the Wisemen had found and adored the Infant Messiah the Angel of the Lord appeared to them and warned them that Herod sought to destroy the Child. And so they had returned home by a different route.

He then explained that when someone seeks Jesus and finds Him, that person is changed. When he permits Jesus to enter into his life, when he surrenders himself to Jesus, he and his life are changed. He cannot remain as he was. Jesus is charting a new way for him, even if it is not visibly different.

After Mass I went back to the Priest and asked him to hear my confession. I too wanted to go home by a different route.

Mother Magdalene



I AM COMING SOON; I AM ALREADY PRESENT

“Begin this Advent Season full of confidence and hope in My unfailing mercy. Although I am coming, and coming soon, I am already present. Look at My Eucharistic Face: know that I am here for you in this the Sacrament of My love. I am here to console you, to comfort and instruct you, to give you an experience of My divine friendship already here in this life so as to prepare you for the glories of friendship in the next.

“Spend this Advent...close to Me in the Sacrament of My love..... Seek out the company of My Immaculate Mother and of the saints. Learn to live with them now so that you will live with them in eternity. Honor My Mother in the mystery of Her Immaculate Conception. This is a mystery full of grace and of light for those who ponder it.

“My word to you this evening is the cry of the prophet to Israel that you sang a few moments ago, ‘Be ye comforted, be ye comforted, for behold, I am coming very soon.’ Desire my coming and prepare for it by living in communion with the most pure Heart of My Mother. I have confided to Her the preparation of souls for My advent in glory.”

*First Sunday of Advent, 2008
In Sinu Jesu
When Heart Speaks to Heart
The Journal of a Priest at Prayer*



MASS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve - 6:00 PM - Tepeyac Hill

Christmas Day - 9:00 AM - St. Joseph Chapel

Saturday, Dec. 26th - 8:00 AM - St. Joseph Chapel

Sunday, Dec. 27th (Feast of the Holy Family) - 11:00 AM - Tepeyac Hill

New Year's Eve (Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God) - 6:00 PM - Tepeyac

New Year's Day - Mission Closed

Saturday, Jan. 2nd - 8:00 AM - St. Joseph Chapel

Sunday, Jan. 3rd (Epiphany) - 11:00 AM - Tepeyac

Sunday, Jan. 10th (Baptism of the Lord) - 11:00 AM - Tepeyac

NOTE: All outdoor Masses are subject to cancellation depending on weather conditions.
Please check our website for updates.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ON TEPEYAC

Christmas Eve Mass at the Mission is one of our favorite and most beautiful Masses of the year. Celebrated in St. Joseph Chapel, Fr. John Mary placing the figure of the Infant Jesus in the Creche behind the altar, the choir singing traditional hymns and carols, the shoulder-to-shoulder congregation warming the chapel, the altar illuminated solely by candlelight. It has always seemed to bring us closer to the experience of Bethlehem.

But this year we may be even closer to the experience of that first Christmas....

After much discussion, and the weighing of pros and cons, we have decided to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass on Tepeyac Hill. Mass will start at 6:00 PM. This start time, we hope, will allow people to arrive in the last vestiges of daylight and get to their places before the dark settles in.

Mass on a chilly dark hillside, gathering around a structure that closely resembles every child's grade school drawing of the stable in Bethlehem, may be too much of a challenge for many people. And for that we are sorry. We know that

it will feel a lot more like the Mass of the Shepherds than the Mass of the Angels. But all *people of good will* will be welcomed and, unlike the inn, there will be room for them. And that is the biggest reason for holding it on Tepeyac, we will not have to turn people away for lack of space.

We encourage everyone to bring a chair, a kneeling pad and a flashlight.

(And if you think you hear the Angels singing, it is more likely to be Sr. Amapola, or is it....)

We will be watching the weather reports to see the forecast for that evening. If the temperatures are predicted to be *too* cold, or if rain is predicted, then the Christmas Eve Mass will be cancelled. Notification of the cancellation will be made at least 24 hours in advance. The change will be on our website and sent out in an email blast.



And in that region there were
shepherds keeping watch over
their flock by night.

And an Angel of the Lord appeared
to them, and the Glory of the Lord
shone round about them, and they
were filled with fear.

And the Angel said to them,
"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring
you tidings of great joy...."
(Luke 2:8-10)





SACRAMENTALS AND THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

St. John Paul spoke of the Family as the “Domestic Church.” In these times when the institutional Church seems less and less accessible, it is more important than ever to seek Jesus’ Grace-filled Presence in and for the Home. One way to help do this is by having, and prayerfully using, sacramentals.

Sacramentals are material objects or substances that have been formally blessed by a Priest so that they may dispel evil and become vehicles of Jesus’ Grace. They can be used anywhere and everywhere.

In the first half of the twentieth century it wasn’t unusual for Catholic homes, schools, and hospitals, as well as Churches, to have a Holy Water font secured to the inner door frame of an entrance. These days Holy Water fonts are not so readily available. But a simple bowl filled with Holy Water at the main or most used entrance to the Home provides an opportunity to seek His Grace and Protection as one leaves for and returns from the world at large.

Most of our friends are aware of the Sacramental Shed at the Mission. It is basically always unlocked, and it is basically always well stocked, thanks to Maria Felicitas’ stalwart replacement, Bill Wiley. So if you haven’t considered using Sacramentals in your home so far, now is a very good time to start. Don’t hoard and don’t be greedy, but do start....



WEATHERING THE STORM

With Your Support

We hope that you took the time to read our recent Anniversary letter, our once-a-year appeal for your support. In case you missed it, we want to repeat a portion of our message here. Not the asking for support part, though that is important and we are very grateful for your financial support, but the part that explains our sense of God's call to us and to you, as we mark our 19th Anniversary.

BEACONS, SHIELDS AND ANCHORS IN THE STORM

Our Community has always believed that God created MDM to serve Him for a special purpose and *for precisely these times*. One way we understand our purpose is that we are to be *Beacons, Shields and Anchors* for those most in danger of being lost in this storm that is our current world.

BEACONS that cut through the darkness with the light of His Truth and Love to reach souls that are steeped in the profound darkness that blankets our world.

SHIELDS, that with His grace withstand the attacks of the enemy and offer protection to His most vulnerable children.

ANCHORS of Faith, that prevent His children from being lost in the tempest that is upon us. We must anchor ourselves in His Heart. Our faith must deepen, like an anchor that is lowered deeper and deeper into the firm Rock. We are not lost or disoriented because Jesus is our Rock. Firm. Unshakable. Trustworthy.

And because we are anchored in Him, though we may be afraid, we do not give in to our fear.

May we all fulfill the mission to which God has called us!



JESUS

EFJ

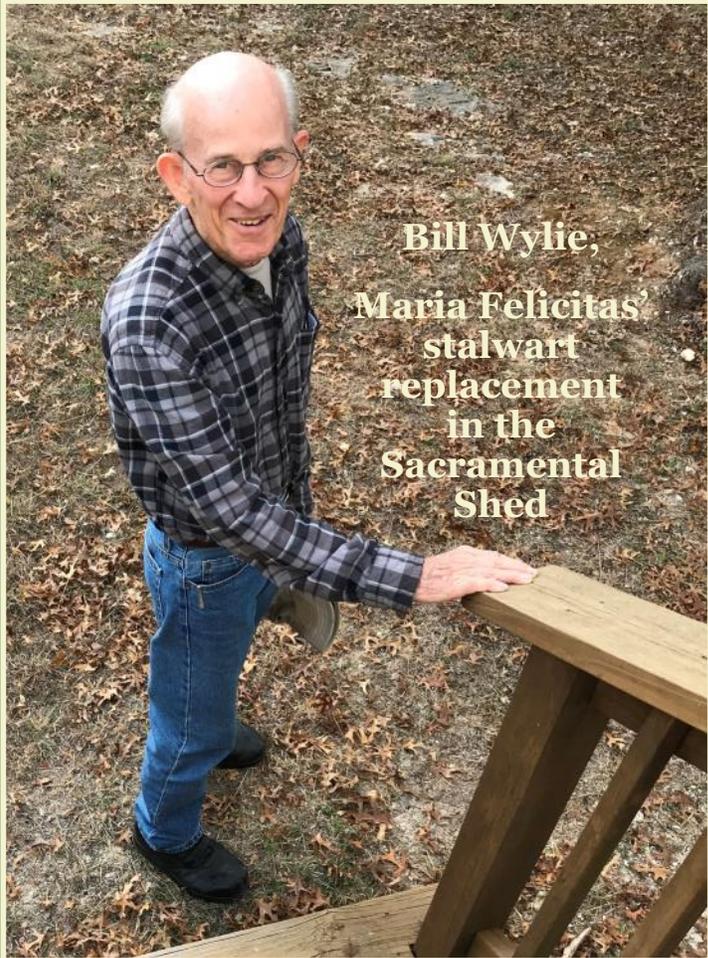
**OUR NON-ESSENTIAL
PERSONNEL?**



“We’re outta’ here....”



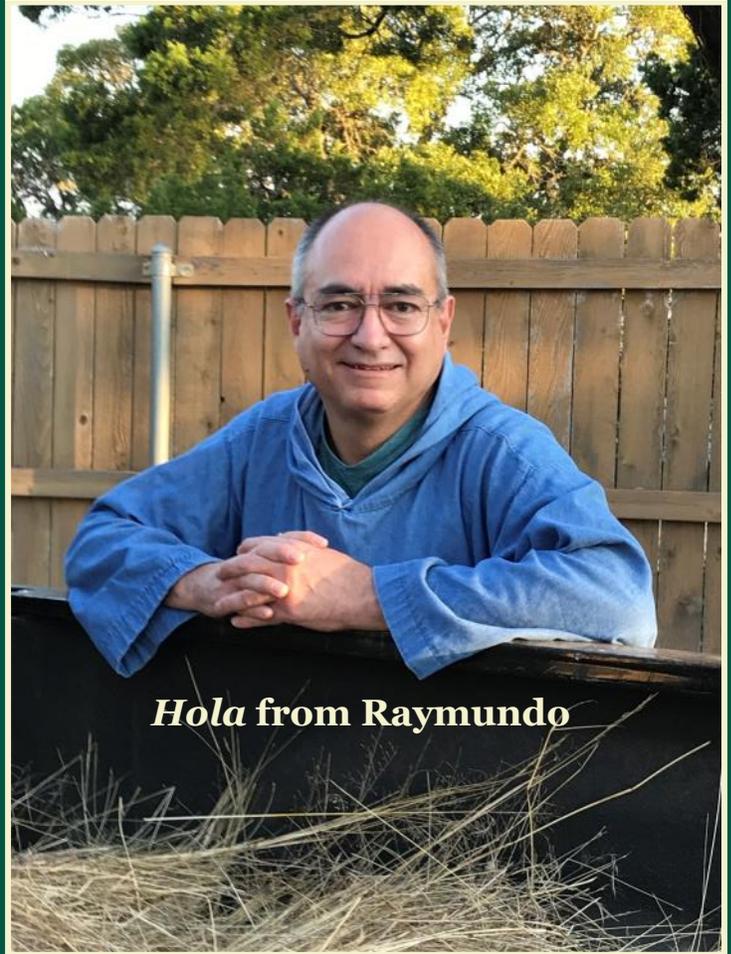
Sr. Amapola and her postulants



**Bill Wylie,
Maria Felicitas’
stalwart
replacement
in the
Sacramental
Shed**



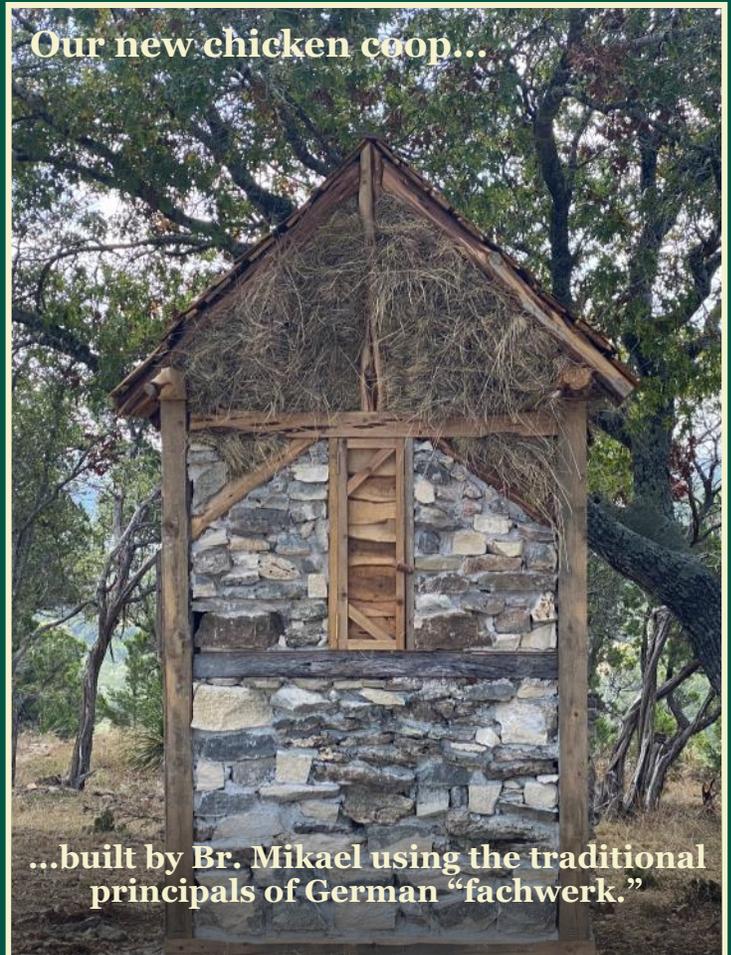
Counseling session...



Hola from Raymundo



“S’up, Br. Daniel?”



Our new chicken coop...

...built by Br. Mikael using the traditional principals of German “fachwerk.”



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St. Joseph: A Gift of Love for Priests

Let My priests be fathers! Let them beg Me for the grace of spiritual fatherhood, and I will give it to them in abundance.

“Such a man was St. Joseph. He was the living image of My Father, and he was chosen by My Father to be a father to Me in My sacred humanity. Let My priests go to St. Joseph. He will obtain for them this priceless gift of spiritual fatherhood, and he will guide them in the delicate and difficult work of being true fathers to souls.”

In Sinu Jesu
Nov. 15, 2013

A Liturgical Guide for your refrigerator door

from the Mission of Divine Mercy



November 29:
1st Sunday of Advent



December 20:
4th Sunday of Advent

November 30:
St. Andrew, Apostle

December 24:
Christmas Eve

December 6:
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 25:
Christmas Day



December 8:
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Patroness of the United States



December 26:
St. Stephen, 1st Martyr

December 9:
St. Juan Diego

December 27: SUNDAY
Feast of the Holy Family
(St. John, Apostle)

December 12:
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Empress of the Americas



December 28: † † †
Martyrdom of the Holy Innocents
† † †

December 13:
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE ~
VIGIL of Solemnity of Mary

December 14:
St. John of the Cross



January 1st, 2021:
Solemnity of Mary
the Mother of God

