



Office of the Archbishop

## Archdiocese of San Antonio

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Dear Friends in Christ:

On the occasion of my official approval of the Mission of Divine Mercy's statutes, I commend them for their efforts and heartily encourage them in their vocation. This year they will begin their 10<sup>th</sup> year in this Archdiocese. In my ministry as Archbishop of San Antonio I have gotten to know their community through numerous contacts with them including several visits to *Mission la Divina Misericordia*, the land that they are developing as monastery, retreat center, and sanctuary. I had the special joy of ordaining Fr. Moses of Jesus Pillari to the priesthood, after he completed his formation at Assumption Seminary, and assigned him to a "special ministry" with the Mission of Divine Mercy.

The Mission of Divine Mercy is a community of priests, religious men and women and consecrated laity. As with each religious community, their presence enriches our archdiocese with the graces and fruits of the special life to which they have been called. In the case of M.D.M., they are called to live a life of faith in Jesus, the eternal Mercy of God, revealed in the Gospel and providentially recalled through the revelations given to Saint Faustina. This faith leads them to a trusting abandonment to the Will of the Father. With our Blessed Mother, they are called to a contemplative life of prayer and recollection, of "abiding in His Love" and interceding for the world. This contemplative life can be hard to understand and harder to find in our busy and restless society. But this life, dedicated to "the one thing necessary," permits an action of God's grace beyond any merely human possibilities.

In the M.D.M. life and apostolate, a priority is given to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. M.D.M. seeks to carry out its apostolic dimension by sharing their spirit with others – in their different ministries. They wish to help all to discover the Holy Spirit's invitation to a deeper union with Him. The lay branch, the *Amici Christi M.D.M.*, are men and women, single or married, who endeavor to bring this spirit into the world where they live.

*Mission la Divina Misericordia* is the primary location of their apostolic activities. There, the community plans to develop two monasteries, one for men and one for women, which will help them live their contemplative life. The Mission is a retreat center and a sanctuary of Divine Mercy where others can come to take part in their community prayer, participate in the various retreats and spiritual formation activities or simply come to experience God's Mercy amidst the trials of our world today.

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" said our Lord to Saint Faustina. His Mercy is our great hope and needs to be widely promoted. I ask the Lord to bless M.D.M.'s efforts to spread His Mercy. And I assure them of my prayerful support in this worthy and important mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez, S.T.D.  
Archbishop of San Antonio