

**“Trust Jesus!  
Trust Jesus!”**



**Mission of Divine Mercy**

Eastertide 2021



# AFTER OUR YEAR-LONG LENT....

**A**fter our year-long Lent and the non-Triduum of 2020, the High Feasts of this Spring, here at the Mission, were intensely appreciated and celebrated.

When we were building our outdoor Sanctuary in the Summer of 2017, we had no idea how important it would become for us. But God did.

And it was precisely because we had already built the Teocalli that we were able, during this year of Covid, to welcome all who wanted to attend our outdoor Masses.

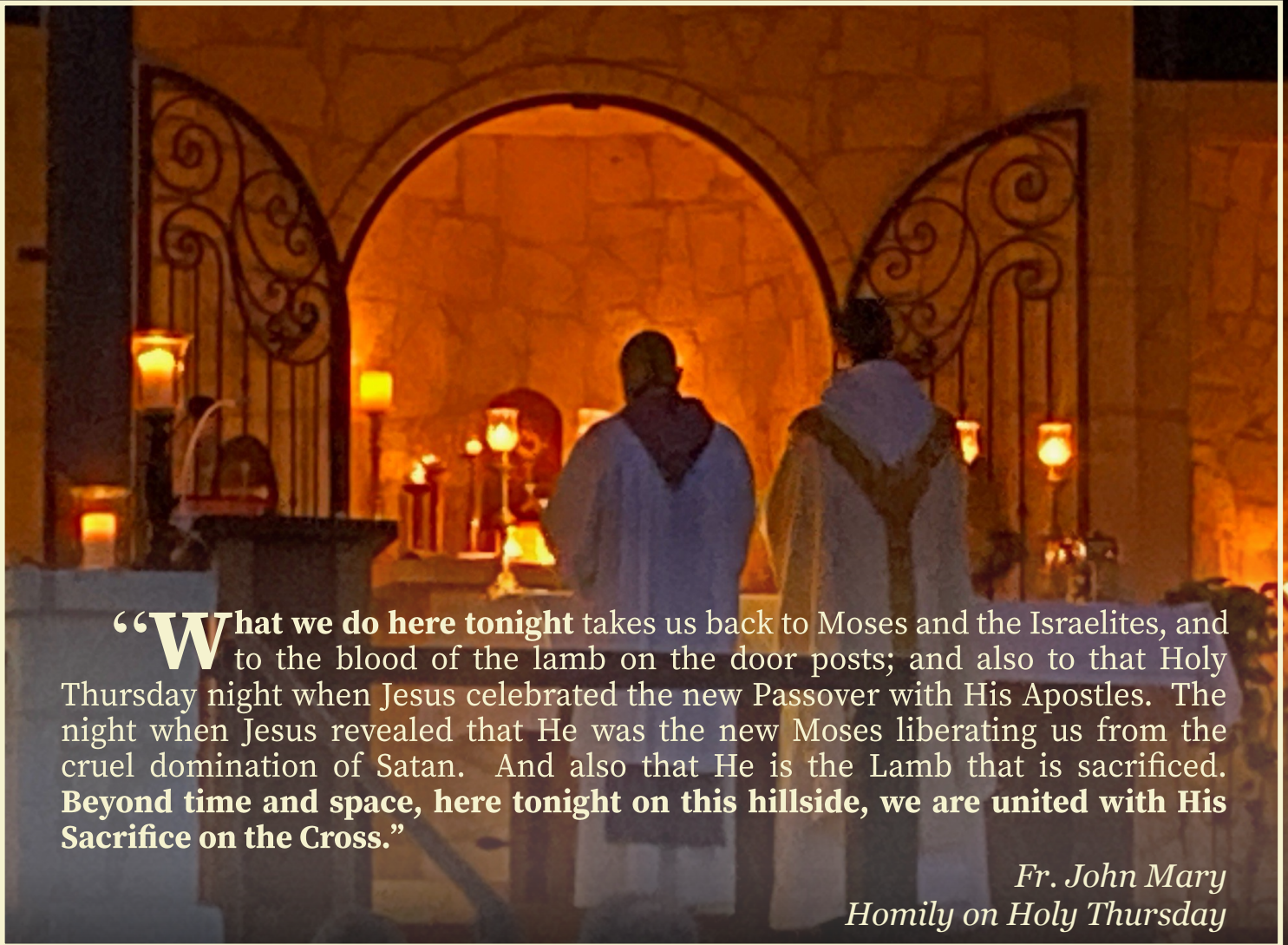
But the providential nature of this hillside Sanctuary truly manifested itself this Spring when we celebrated every Paschal service outdoors: The evening Vigil of Holy Thursday; the walking Way of the Cross and, later, the Service of the Passion on Good Friday; Saturday morning's Rosary with Our Lady of Sorrows; the pre-dawn lighting of the new Paschal Fire on Easter followed by the Mass of the Resurrection; and finally the glorious celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday when over 500 people gathered on the hillside to adore, rejoice in and to be saturated with the outpouring of His Divine Mercy.

In his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, Fr. John Mary reflected on our experience of this past year --- the fear, the confusion, the darkness. "When we are lost, confused, and frightened; when we don't know where we are or where to go, then we need directions. We need a road map. And that is what the Father has given us. This is what Jesus is. He is the Map, the Path, the Direction. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life given to us by the Father. And given *especially* for these dark times."

When Fr. John Mary exclaimed repeatedly, "Trust Jesus! Trust Jesus!" the cry reverberated in the hearts of the congregation, and echoed down through the valley and out into the whole world. ♦



# HOLY THURSDAY



**“What we do here tonight** takes us back to Moses and the Israelites, and to the blood of the lamb on the door posts; and also to that Holy Thursday night when Jesus celebrated the new Passover with His Apostles. The night when Jesus revealed that He was the new Moses liberating us from the cruel domination of Satan. And also that He is the Lamb that is sacrificed. **Beyond time and space, here tonight on this hillside, we are united with His Sacrifice on the Cross.”**

*Fr. John Mary  
Homily on Holy Thursday*



# WAY OF THE CROSS...

## GOOD FRIDAY

*Quotes from Divine  
Mercy Sunday Homily*

“We are experiencing a darkness  
in our world unlike anything that  
we have experienced before.”

“But through following the Paschal  
Mystery, by sharing it with Jesus, God  
is giving us a clear, simple map.”





“As that first Holy Week progressed, it looked like the plan that the Devil had carefully plotted was a success. On Good Friday, with Christ’s death on the Cross, it looked like the Devil had won.”



“It looked like the complete destruction of the young Church that was just beginning. And yet God turned the triumph of evil into the Greatest Triumph of God’s mercy.”



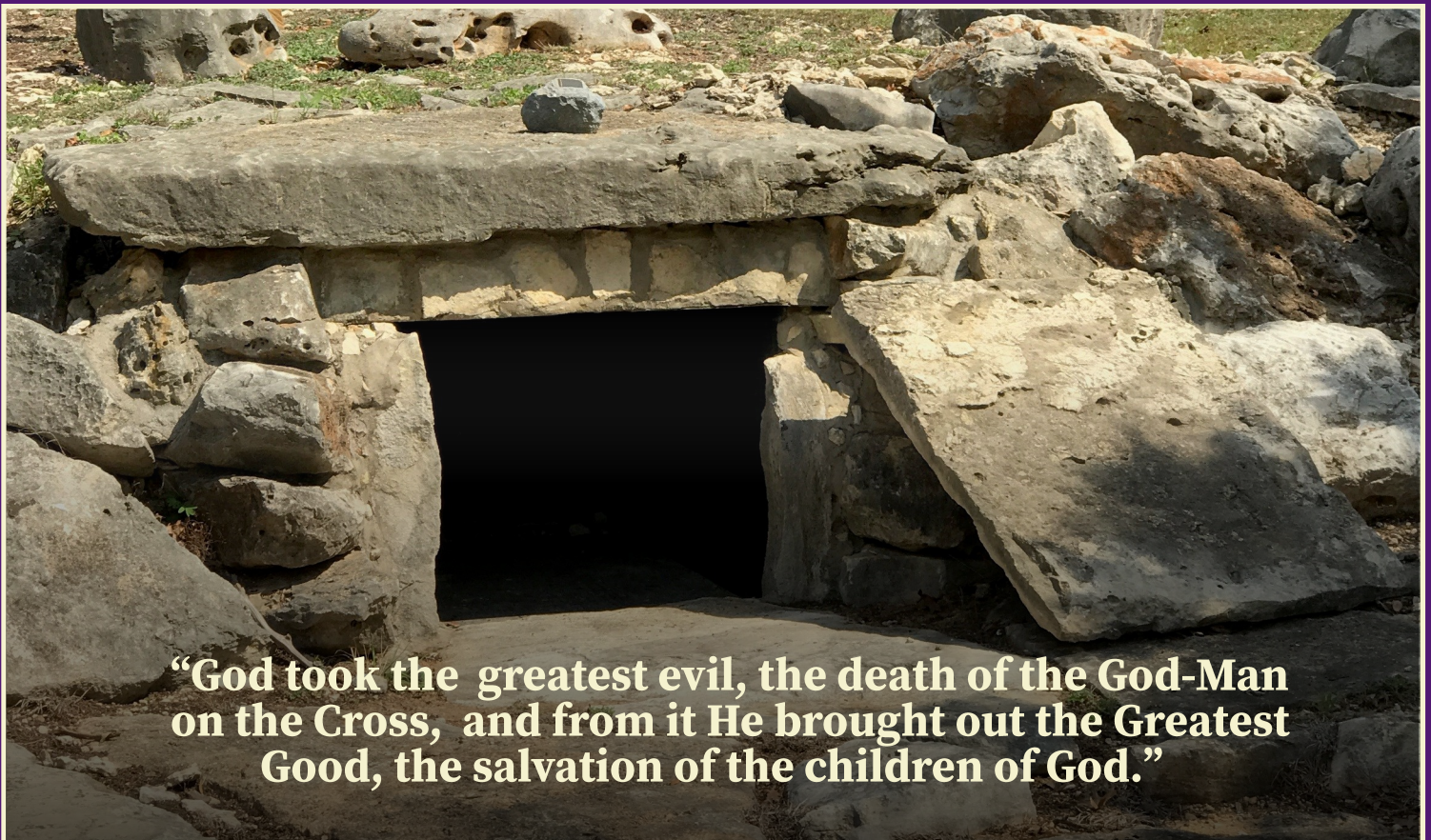


“What do you think is happening today? In our own day when it may look like evil is winning, we are called to follow the same path of Jesus, the same Map.”

St Michael Squadron



“We are sharing today in the suffering and death of Jesus. As members of His Church, we are sharing in the *Redemptive Suffering* of Jesus in order to save souls and bring about the transformation of our world.”



**“God took the greatest evil, the death of the God-Man on the Cross, and from it He brought out the Greatest Good, the salvation of the children of God.”**



# HOLY SATURDAY



“And Our Blessed Mother is with us,  
to help us to hold on in faith, to hold on in hope,  
to persevere, as She did.”





“Right now, we are still in the world. And while we are in the world, we are united to His difficult mission of saving the world. But He tells us that when we share in His Sacrifice, we will also share His Resurrection.”

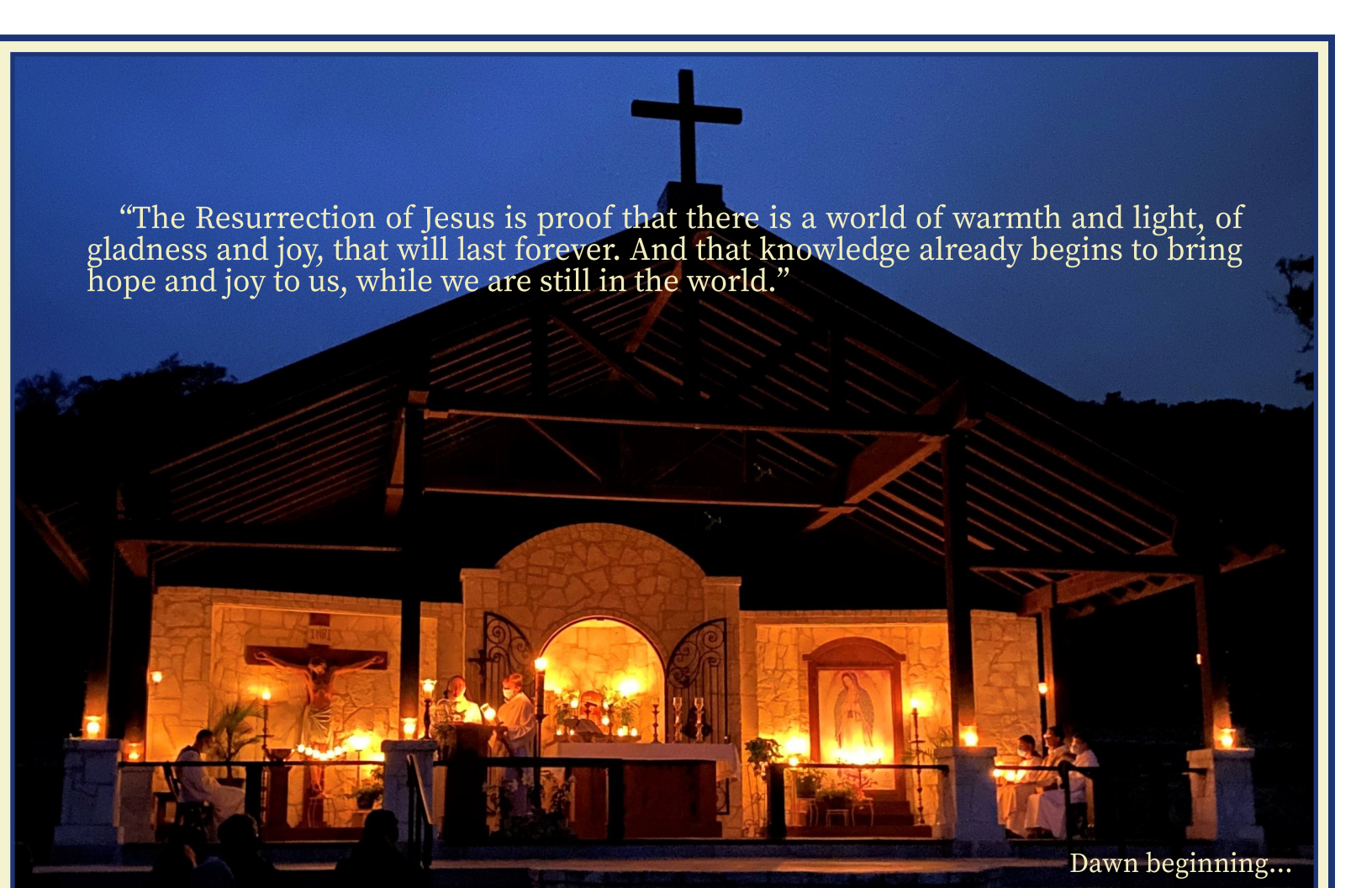
Quotes from  
Easter Vigil Homily

Lighting of the Paschal Fire

The Son Rises!

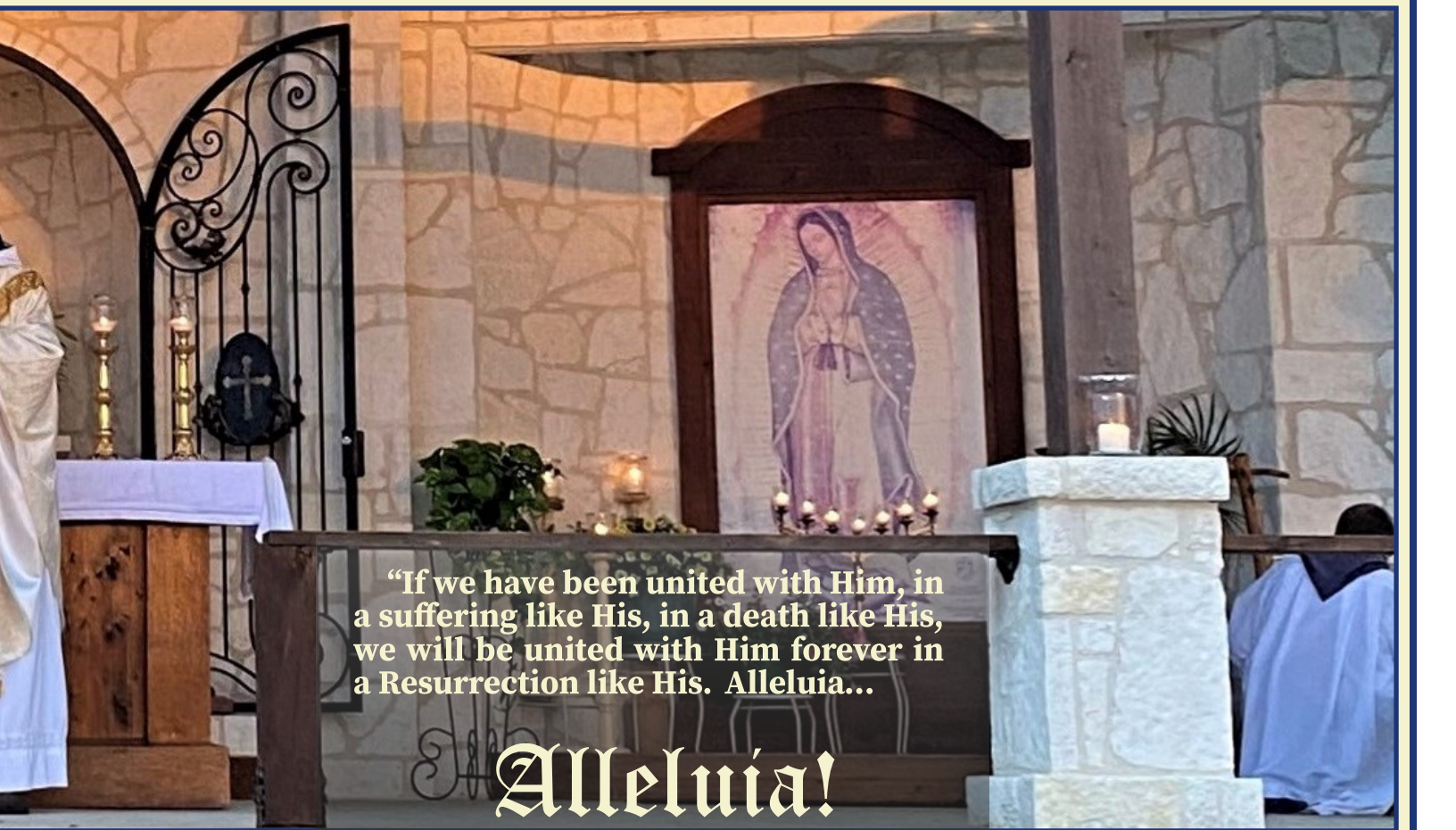






“The Resurrection of Jesus is proof that there is a world of warmth and light, of gladness and joy, that will last forever. And that knowledge already begins to bring hope and joy to us, while we are still in the world.”

Dawn beginning...



“If we have been united with Him, in a suffering like His, in a death like His, we will be united with Him forever in a Resurrection like His. Alleluia...”

Alleluia!



# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**“Trust is the Battle Plan for Ultimate Victory!”**

*Quotes from Divine Mercy Sunday Homily*



**“We are living a great battle today. In the midst of a battle you need simple directions. What are the directions that God is giving us so that He can pour out His mercy on us? It is something so simple:**

**Trust Jesus! Trust Jesus!**

**“God is working in us to extend our trust. Stretching our trust. Some may feel stretched to the extreme. Trust is hard, but it is powerful. The devil tries to control us by fear. Trust In Jesus overcomes fear.**

**“Trusting in God is not hopelessness; it is a strategy. One given to us by God. Our victory over the world is our faith in Jesus. That is how we will be victorious.”**





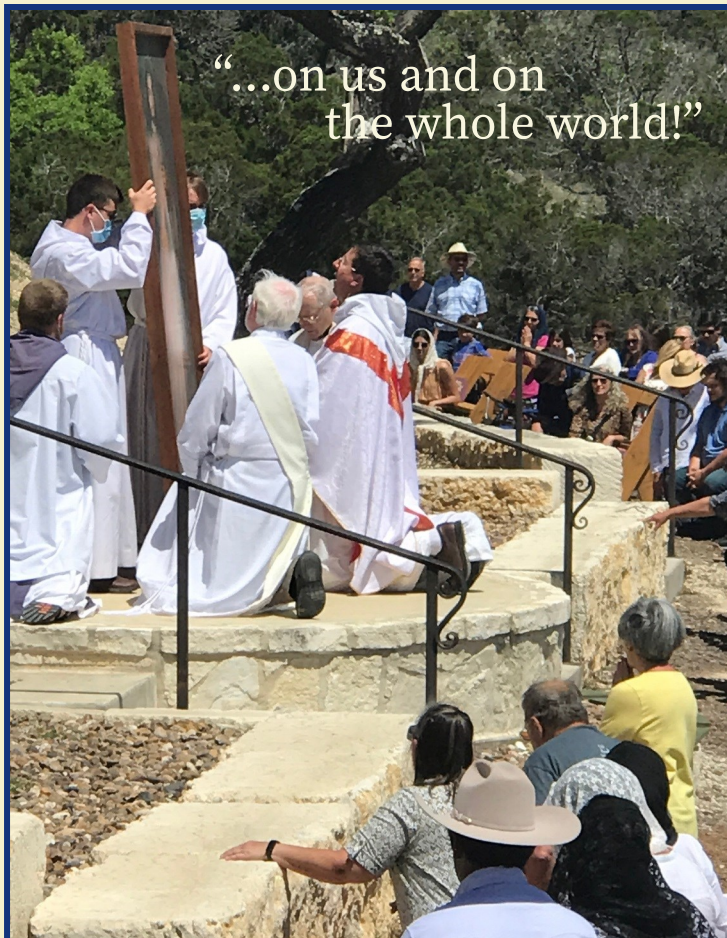
## A Mirror vs. the Image

“The world tells us to get a mirror and put it in our house. And then each day look into the mirror and say, ‘I trust in you.’ That is what the world tells us to do; to trust in ourselves.

“Jesus, through St. Faustina, gave us something very different to put in our homes. It is the Image of His Divine Mercy. He gave us that Image to teach us to trust in Him.

“The person who trusts in Jesus says, ‘Jesus, I don’t trust in myself because I am weak and sinful. And the world is always lying to me. But I trust in You. Jesus, I trust in You.’

“And Jesus responds with a promise that only He has the power to make. *‘I promise that the soul that will venerate this Image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory.’*” (#48 Diary of St. Faustina) ♦





# CHEERS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!





**O**n behalf of the entire MDM Community, I would like to extend a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers and staff members who, through the gifts of their time and talents, helped others to experience so many graces and blessings at this year's Triduum and Divine Mercy Sunday. Your willingness to offer up your time helped so many others to have a reverent and Spirit-filled experience.

Raul Landa, Steve Magdich and Dave Sommers did a wonderful job on the grounds, the lighting, and other behind-the-scenes efforts preparing for the crowds. Paul Foster, Paul Furlong and Bill Burkhardt did a phenomenal job on the sound system. I also want to thank Bob Williams for coordinating the efforts of our volunteer program and all the volunteers including everything from parking and cart driving; security and medical assistance; sacristy and Sacramentals; ushering and the information table. (If I missed someone, please forgive me; there were just too many volunteers to remember them all.)

**The MDM Community and all those who participated in the events are indebted to each of you for your sacrifices and hard work.**

As you can see, it takes more than our little Community to run a Mission ☺. It takes a whole army of volunteers, which may be why we have the Sergeant Major of the Marines working here.

These days we are also in need of additional volunteers to help clean the Sanctuary on a regular basis or to help with various administrative tasks. And sometimes we are just in need of a few strong backs! Also, if you have any "trade" experience and would like to volunteer that talent when needed, please let us know.

If you would like to volunteer at the Mission, please contact the office at 830-302-2238, so that we can begin the process of getting you certified by the Archdiocese.

*(On a side note, it became apparent during this year's Divine Mercy service that **we could use a golf cart with a wheelchair ramp.** The cost for one of these is around \$16,000 and is beyond our budget; but if anyone of you feels called to donate this to the Mission, please contact me at the number above.)*

Once again, thank you to the volunteers that make this Mission possible. God bless you all! ♦

*Peter Roderique, MDM  
President*





# OUR AMICI CHRISTI

This past year — with its restrictions, protocols and guidelines — took its toll on our *Amici Christi* gatherings. Nonetheless, minus the after-Mass breakfasts and socializing, we still managed to meet each month for Mass and a conference. And that was enough; it was more than enough.

One gentleman said, “I’ve realized that each time I return from one of our *Amici Christi* gatherings, I feel like I’ve made a small retreat.”

In November of 2020 we had the commitment ceremony that is traditionally scheduled for the Spring; and this April, on the first Friday of Eastertide, we had the ceremony for the latest novices and those making their first commitment.

If anyone is interested in joining the *Amici Christi* they should begin by attending some events and Masses at the Mission. If their interest persists, then they should contact Deacon Bob Gorman.





# “A YEAR WITHOUT SMILES”

In his Divine Mercy Sunday homily, Fr. John Mary mentioned that this past year of mask-wearing has been “**a year without smiles.**” It has also been a year without retreats here at the Mission.

Certainly when we first had to cancel our retreats last March, **we weren’t expecting to not have retreats for a full year.** We kept waiting and hoping that the restrictions on overnight retreats would be lifted and we could offer our *Encounter With Jesus* retreats again.

Finally accepting the fact that the restrictions may remain in place for the foreseeable future, and anxious to be welcoming more people to the Mission, **we have decided to offer our Saturday half-day retreats beginning next September.** The half-day retreats offer flexibility in sharing our spirituality and God’s mercy with individuals, families and groups. Please check our website and weekly Meditations for future information.

**A year without retreats has also been a financial blow for the Mission.** It is not that the retreats themselves bring in much money; in fact they barely pay for themselves. But the retreats introduce new people to the Mission and some of these people choose to support the Mission going forward.

**We realize that we are not the only ones to have experienced a tough financial year, and we are very appreciative of the many people who have checked on us and offered their help in various ways.** But if you are able to make a contribution to the Mission’s finances, whether it’s a one-time contribution, or a monthly donation, we would be very grateful.

One more situation that keeps us repeating, “Jesus, I trust in You.” ♦

## SUMMER?

At this point our Summer schedule has not been finalized. Please check our website ([www.missionofdivinemercy.org](http://www.missionofdivinemercy.org)) or myParish App for updates.

*Stay tuned....*

**Hey, You up there!  
We’re waiting  
for You....**



*Some photos in this issue taken pre-Covid.*





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O give thanks  
to the LORD,  
for He is good;  
for  
**HIS MERCY**  
endures  
forever!

*Psalm 118*

