



“O Sacred  
Head  
...so  
wounded....”

MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY

Lent 2022





## 2022 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### **Palm Sunday – April 10, 2022**

**10:00am** - Mass at St. Joseph's Chapel  
Gather at the Tomb beforehand

**12:30pm** - Mission Closes

### **Holy Thursday – April 14, 2022**

**7:30pm** - Mass of the Institution of the  
Eucharist at St. Joseph's Chapel  
followed by a Eucharistic Vigil

**10:00pm** - Mission Closes

### **Good Friday – April 15, 2022**

**9:00am** – Walking Way of the Cross

**11:30am - 1:55 pm** - Confessions heard on  
a first come, first serve basis. There will be  
veneration of the Relic of the True Cross in  
St. Joseph's Chapel, and the Mission  
grounds will remain open to the public for  
quiet reflection.

**2:00pm** – Service of the Passion followed  
by the Novena of Divine Mercy

**4:00pm** - Mission Closes

### **Holy Saturday – April 16, 2022**

**9:00am** - Rosary of Our Lady of  
Sorrows followed by Divine Mercy  
Novena in St. Joseph's Chapel

**9:00am to 11:00am** - Confessions  
heard on a first come, first serve basis

**12:00pm** - Mission Closes

### **Easter Sunday - April 17, 2022**

**6:00am** - Easter Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's  
Chapel followed by a taco breakfast in the  
O'Callaghan Center

**10:00am** - Mission Closes

**Please see our website  
([missionofdivinemeracy.org](http://missionofdivinemeracy.org))  
Schedule page for a downloadable  
PDF of the Holy Week & Triduum  
Retreat schedule.**

# TWO SIMPLE WAYS TO LIVE THE TRIDUUM

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**I**n the face of the dramatic challenges confronting our world, the Holy Spirit invites you to enter the days of the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday—that profound time when we try to live with Jesus the painful culmination of His earthly mission and His glorious triumph.

It is the Mystery of the Paschal passage, the Mystery of Faith, Humility and Obedience in His accomplishment of the Father's plans, the eternal Plans of Mercy of the Most Blessed Trinity.

To deepen your experience of these high holy days, we invite anyone who is able, to take part in your parish services or in MDM's Triduum retreat. However, we realize that not everyone can do this. But that doesn't mean that you can't have a profound Triduum experience. We propose two simple ways to help you live these days more fully.

## 1) UNITE YOURSELF WITH JESUS

To the degree that you are able, try to unite yourself with Jesus during these days. And when the obligations of your life interfere with your desire to live these days, *do your best to unite your human work to the Work that Jesus did during those Holy Days*---It was the Work of Love, in which ALL is given, for the sake of drawing all to the Heart of the Father, so wounded by the lack of love and faith of His children.

In this way you will live these days, the days of the Triduum, in a more profound union with Jesus than would seem apparent by the external work that you do.

Jesus died for you and for the sake of your brothers and sisters. *Offer and unite everything to Jesus for the accomplishment of His Plans.* By living these days uniting yourself with Him, you too will "die" for their sake.

## 2) HARD WORK REQUIRES NOURISHMENT

To nourish yourself spiritually for the work of these days, read the Gospel of John, chapters 14 through 17. Meditate on Jesus' words at the Last Supper and the Words of His prayer to His Father. Read them slowly, perhaps just a few paragraphs at a time, and allow Jesus to reveal His Heart to you through these sacred Words.

Let His Words sink into the depths of your heart, as a balm, as hope, as the assurance of your union with Him and His everlasting love for you.

Read these Words as the special embrace of the Trinity: Words spoken by Love [the Holy Spirit], from the Will of the Father, and through the Obedience and Humility of the Son.

Experience these sacred Words as an expression of the Love of the Trinity for all God's children throughout time, **but spoken in a special way for NOW and for YOU.**

Unite yourself with Christ as He goes to His Passion, and feed yourself with His Word. Experience a Triduum that draws you more deeply into the Heart of the Trinity and sustains you in the times that follow.





## BUILDING THE NEW CONVENT

### Your Prayers Are Requested

We are asking for your prayers for success in building a convent for the Sisters on Shepherds' Hill. The Community is stepping out in faith (once again) to begin the construction when human wisdom might counsel against it.

You may remember reading in the last newsletter our announcement of plans for the convent. Then in November, during MDM's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, there was a special procession after Mass to Shepherds' Hill to bless the ground where the convent will be built.

This marks the first time that we will actually build living quarters for the Community. For the past 20 years we have lived in housing generously lent to us, or in residential housing that we purchased near the Mission, which is the current situation. But the Sisters' house has always been a concern for the Community and Mission staff because it is not connected to the Mission property, is somewhat isolated, and necessitates constant automobile use.

The new convent will be centrally located at the Mission and will allow room for some additional vocations. It is anticipated that the eventual sale of the property where the Sisters currently live will help to finance the construction of the new convent.

Shepherds' Hill will also be the location of a future house for the Brothers, but only the con-

vent is in the immediate plans. A significant portion of the cost of building the convent will involve bringing in the utilities—water, electric and septic—to the new location. These utilities will be sized to allow for future growth.

The new convent has been in the planning stage for many years. A short time ago we began working with an architect and investigating the requirements of the infrastructure. However, recent dramatic cost increases, due to inflation and supply chain disruption, and the instability of the financial and global situations, caused us to hesitate.

Once again, we brought the question to the Lord in prayer. And we received clear indications that the Lord was asking us to take this step, **now, in faith, and that He would provide.** This requirement to take a step in faith has marked the history of MDM. It is never easy, but it is part of "the obedience of faith."

These circumstances are causing us to rethink our construction path and how it will be financed. First, we are looking at ways to do more of the work ourselves. And second, we may need to start a capital campaign to bridge the gap in finances.

We ask for your prayers as we take the next step. Jesus, we trust in You.





## WHEN THE WORLD SEEMS OUT OF CONTROL: The Growing Network of Trust

Just a reminder that we are encouraging people to join us in saying “Jesus, I trust in You” many times a day during these very challenging times. We have chosen to say it 20 times, in honor of MDM’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The number is just a way of helping us to turn to Jesus in everything; taking all our worries, heartaches and desires and placing them in His Sacred Heart, trusting in Him to guide us through these times.

We invite you to join us in making this prayer part of your day. You may find yourself saying it a hundred times a day; the words a comfort on your lips and a reassurance in your heart.

We also invite you to add your name to our growing NETWORK OF TRUST at:

<https://missionofdivinemeracy.org/join-network-of-trust>

No one will contact you. But we would like to hear from anyone who wishes to share how their experience of saying “Jesus, I trust in You,” has impacted their life at:

[mercy@missionofdivinemeracy.org](mailto:mercy@missionofdivinemeracy.org)



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES ...

We have heard from some of you that with inflation and the rising cost of gas you won't be able to come as often to the Mission, and you may have to cut back on your support. We want to let you know that we completely understand and we thank you for all the support that you have already provided to this Mission. Let us all renew our trust in the Lord in these challenging times. ♦





## MARGARET FOSTER: Matriarch of MDM

We cannot fail to mark the recent Eternal Homecoming of Margaret Foster on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, in her 98th year. As the Mother of Fr. John Mary and Mother Magdalene, Grandmother of Br. Mikael and Aunt of Peter, she could be considered the Matriarch of MDM. She was also the Mother of Russ, David, Paul and me.

As my brother Paul said in his remarks at her eulogy, *"People are often criticized for canonizing the person they are eulogizing...well, guilty as charged."* And while our Mother was not perfect, she seemed to us, her children, a near-perfect Mother. As one of her sons said to her once, *"You are the mommiest Mom."*

There is much that could be said about a woman who lived 98 years, was married for 52 years, and raised six children. But because some of our friends have asked to know more, we want to focus here on her singular importance for the Mission of Divine Mercy; and, as it were, the hidden roots of MDM.

It is not hyperbole to say that MDM would not exist without her. In fact, in his funeral homily Fr. John Mary said just that: *"Without her, this Mission would not be here."* But she did more than give birth to the founder and a founding member, she also greatly influenced the development of their faith, and that of all her children, through her own deep and evident faith in God and in His promises.

I think that Mother Magdalene explains it very well: *"A vocation to this Mission involves, above all, a great leap of Faith, and continuing acts of trust. I think that I can believe in a God of Goodness, and trust in His Loving Will for me, as well as for the world--despite 'this present darkness'-- because my first experiences of earthly reality were of goodness and love. Mom was our earliest glimpse of the Face of God."*

Mom followed with love, interest and concern the lives of all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But the confluence of events that led two of her children, who had entered religious life in different eras and different continents, to begin MDM, captured her heart and brought together in a unique way her twin interests of Faith and family.

She believed in her heart, from very early on, that God was doing something special with that small group of individuals, gathered down in Monterrey, Mexico, and later in South Texas, lands that were so foreign to her own experience.

She even managed two trips to Monterrey, and then later more trips with my father to Rancho Maria in Hebbronville, Texas, where, as she described it, *"there was nothing there that didn't scratch, sting, poison or bite."*

When Dad died unexpectedly in November 1999, Mom handled the sudden blow with a strength that,



Wedding Day, 1947

I think, surprised all of us. She remained in the house that she and Dad had built in 1955. As a child of the Depression, she continued to be careful with her funds; there were no Caribbean cruises or trips down the Rhine. Her social network was comprised mostly of friends from her prayer group and her own six remaining siblings who all lived within a day's drive or less. And of course her children; always her children.

She continued to keep close tabs on what was happening in South Texas, through weekly phone calls, and was always eager to share her news with the rest of us. And when the fledgling little group needed to move from Hebbronville to New Braunfels, and had no funds to begin this challenge, and very few persons to turn to, at that critical time it was her generous financial help that got them started and provided some breathing space. Something she continued to do until her death.

After the Community moved to New Braunfels she began to make twice yearly visits to Texas, staying in the Sisters' sewing room. She loved those visits and her contact with the religious Community, and the lay community that was growing around it. She would return from Texas brimming with stories about what was happening here.

Mom wanted to be where the action was, and from her perspective, the action that truly interested her—God's Action—was happening on a piece of property near Canyon Lake.

When she began to mention the idea of moving



to Texas, I think we were all a little stunned. After all, she was in her 80s and had lots of friends and family nearby. At the time, I was caring for my husband who had a terminal illness, and Mom insisted that she wouldn't move away while that situation existed. But after his death she began to mention the possibility of our both moving down to Texas.

A year later Mom and I pooled our resources and built a house on the Mission property that will belong to the Mission after our deaths. And so it happened that in 2009, at the age of 85, Mom moved to Texas, leaving close friends and siblings geographically behind. That was hard.

But of course, she was moving to an area where four of her six children would be living, as my brother Paul had already moved to Texas to help start the new St. John Paul II High School.

Mom threw herself into the life at the Mission: attending Mass, making Holy Hours, joining Amici Christi and making several retreats. She also made new friends.

One of my best memories of our early years here was of Mom hiking the St. Michael's Trail with Fr. John Mary, even managing to use the climbing rope with a little push from behind, making it all the way to the Summit.

Finally, when she reached 93 the years began to catch up with her and she left the house less, sometimes only to go to Mass or the doctors, and eventu-

ally even that became too difficult. As just the process of living became so difficult, she began to say that she thought she would prefer to watch the events at the Mission from Heaven. That was a significant change.

But she continued to support and take an interest in all the events at the Mission, making it an intention of her daily Rosary, something that she prayed all her life. The last Mass that she attended at the Mission was our 20th Anniversary Mass this past November, making a special effort because she so desired to be there. She even made it up to the top of Shepherds' Hill in the golfcart to witness the blessing of the location of the new convent.

Mom suffered a great deal in the last weeks. It seemed to be her final mission on earth: offering that heavy cross to the Lord for His children.

On what turned out to be her last day, February 14th, we were gathered around her bed, praying the Rosary and Chaplet, pleading with God to ease her way. Suddenly, her brown eyes that had been closed or dulled with suffering for many weeks, opened wide and looked at us clearly. It was striking. She looked at each of us, and then she looked up at *something else*, and that something else seemed to be beyond us, and her face was happy and peaceful.

Finally her deepest desire was granted. God took His little prayer warrior, His little Valentine, home.

◆ Emily Foster-Jebbia







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We invite you  
to join us  
for  
Divine Mercy  
Sunday



### Divine Mercy Sunday April 24, 2022

- 10:00am** Mass at the Teocalli followed by the Novena and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image
- 2:00pm** Mission Closes. Please do not plan to hike after Mass.

### Be Prepared...

As in past years, Divine Mercy Sunday Mass will be held at the Teocalli, our outdoor Sanctuary on Tepeyac Hill. Unfortunately, our benches have been destroyed by the Texas sun, and so the only seating will be what you bring for yourself. So please come equipped with water; chair or blanket; and sun or rain protection. ♦

**Contact Us:** 830-302-2238, [mdm@missionofdivinemeracy.org](mailto:mdm@missionofdivinemeracy.org), [www.missionofdivinemeracy.org](http://www.missionofdivinemeracy.org)