

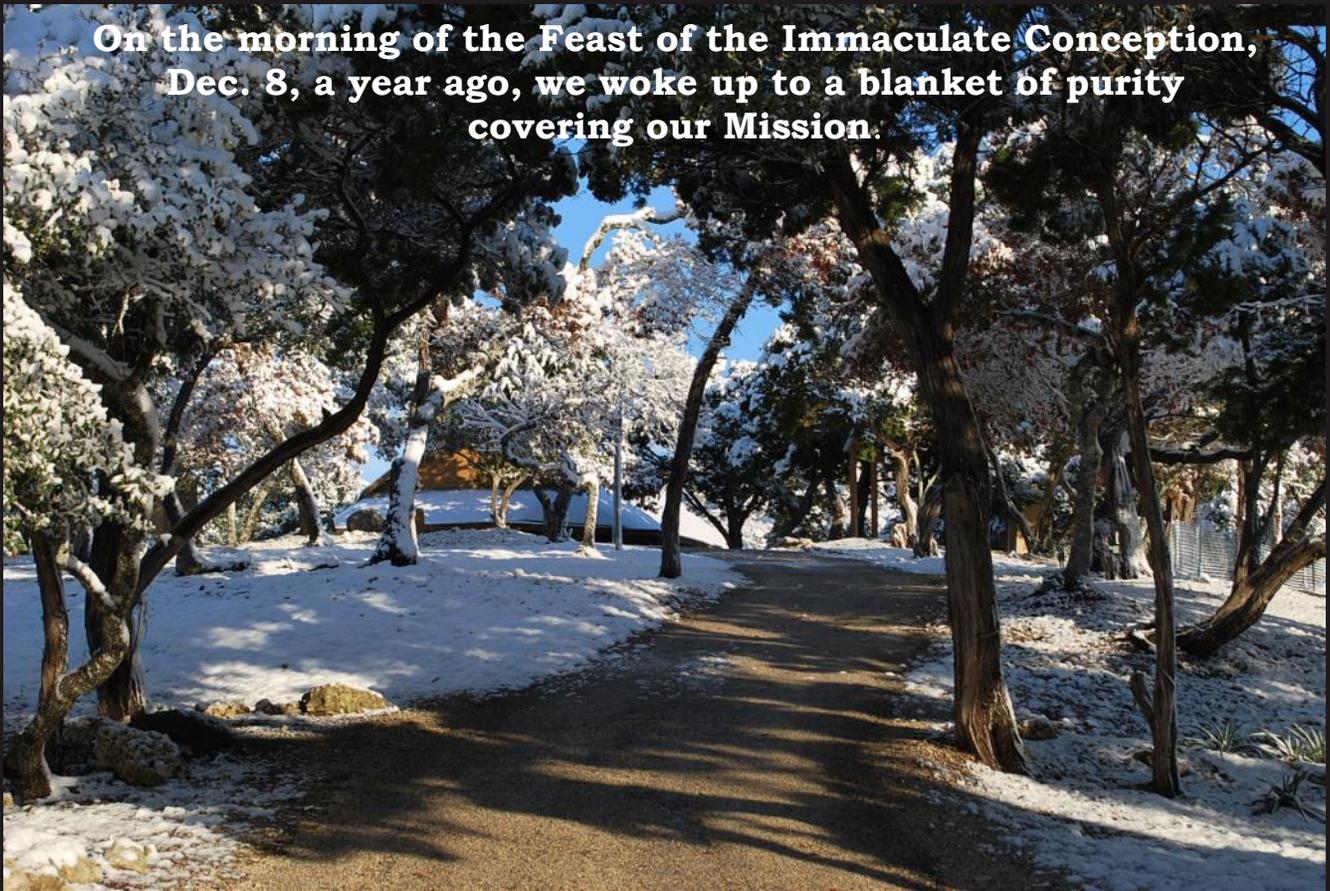
Mission of Divine Mercy



*Angel
of
Advent*

Advent 2018

**On the morning of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
Dec. 8, a year ago, we woke up to a blanket of purity
covering our Mission.**



THE ANGEL OF ADVENT

This year we are lighting our Angel at the Gate for the First Sunday of Advent. Because the *eschatological** nature of Advent grows more and more important for us.

COME, LORD JESUS...

Advent draws our gaze in three directions: It recalls the Divine Arrival of God-in-the-Flesh; it celebrates His continued Eucharistic Presence with us through history; and it awaits with faith and longing His Glorious Return.

COME, LORD JESUS....

Our Angel of Advent bears a Cross. The Virgin's 'Yes' to the Request of the Father was Her first step on the long pilgrimage to Calvary. The 'Yes' of the Son as He took Flesh in the Womb of Mary was consummated in the Sacrifice of His Crucifixion. And so for each of us the celebration of Christmas illuminates the Paschal Mystery - birth, death, resurrection - of our own lives. In the daily 'Yes' to the Will of the Father that each of us struggles to make we experience the dimensions of this Mystery; and with Jesus and Mary we find the Grace to continue.

As the world around us (and perhaps within us) seems to spin farther and farther out of control we cry out with the bright Angel of Advent.

COME, LORD JESUS! ♦

**Pertaining to the End Times*

Mother Magdalene

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA

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.'

AN OLD FRIEND RETURNS

This fall we happily welcomed back a former member of our community, Raymundo Guemes from Monterrey, Mexico. Some of you may remember that Raymundo was with us when we first journeyed up to New Braunfels from south Texas. He was known as Br. Juan Pablo.

In our December 2002 newsletter we sadly announced that Br. Juan Pablo, who had been with us for nearly two years, was returning to Mexico. The article explained, "...you know the profound goodness of his heart and his desire to consecrate himself completely to God. The difficulty for him has been communication. He damaged his hearing during years of working as a civil engineer in heavy construction projects and has become increasingly deaf...This has made it difficult for him to learn much English and also to participate in the life and work of the Community."

Raymundo returned to Monterrey where he taught engineering at three universities.

But he always remained in touch with MDM. And now he has returned, with a new hearing aid. On October 15th Raymundo was officially received into our community as a postulant. And as an extra pair of hands, he is already making himself very useful.

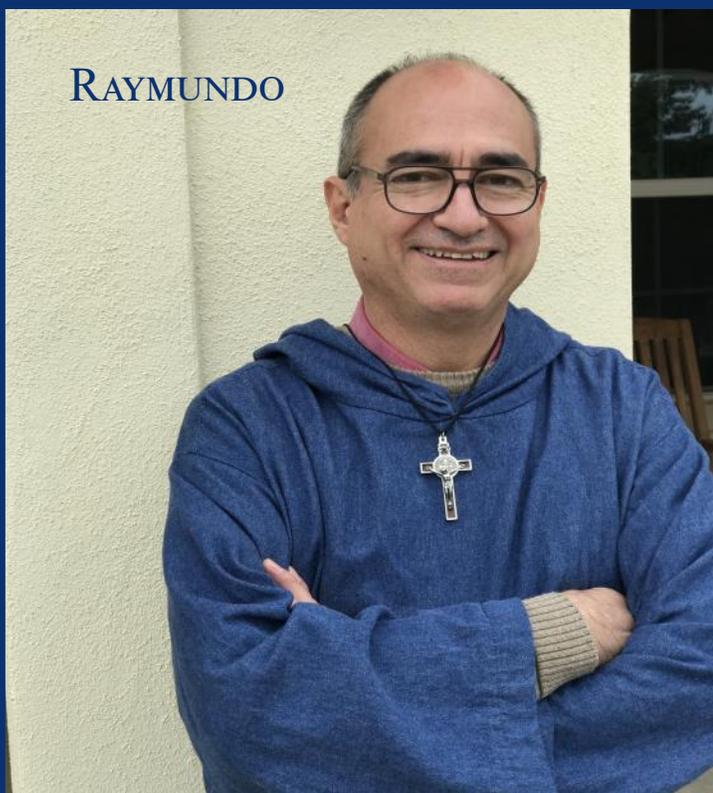
Please join us in welcoming him back, and please keep Raymundo's vocation in your prayers. ♦

BR. DANIEL'S FIRST VOWS



One very significant event that has occurred since our last newsletter, took place on Pentecost Sunday, 2018. At the end of Mass that morning Br. Daniel made his first vows and became a professed member of the Community after two years as a novice. As a visible sign of his new status, he received a new scapular with the MDM emblem, replacing his former plain scapular. We are very grateful to God for Daniel's presence in the Community. ♦

RAYMUNDO



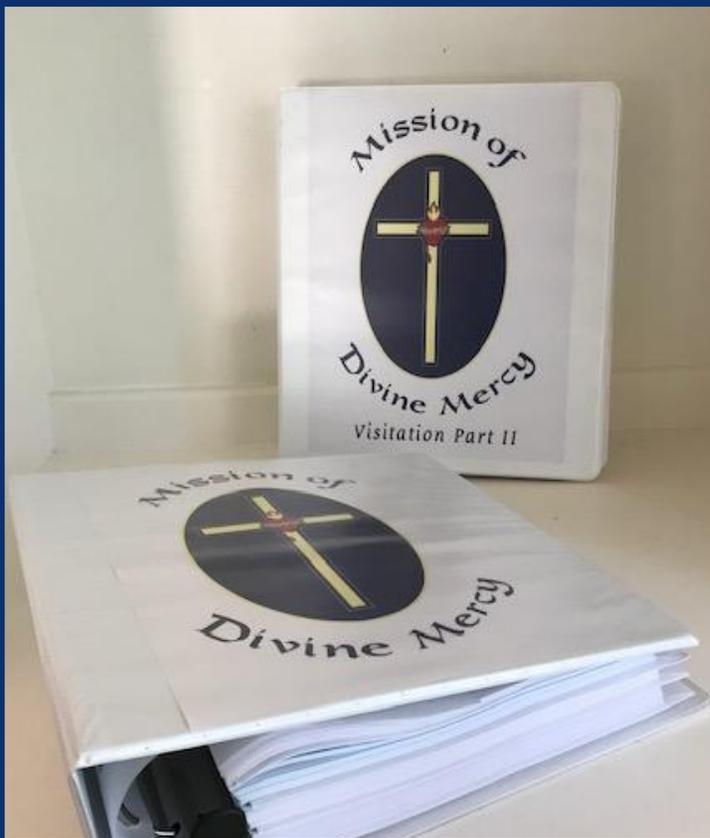
“What Happened to My Newsletters?”

OUR ARCHDIOCESAN VISITATION

But it is also a lot of work! And one part of it involves a lot of paper! It could be compared to a school going through an accreditation process. Over the course of the last year we sent two big binders to the Archdiocese, totaling almost 1000 pages.

All of this is to say that to accomplish the visitation, something else had to give...and it was the newsletters. We just couldn't do both. But with this newsletter, we hope to be back on track.

**Jesus,
We Trust in You**



We have received calls from some of you, worried that we had deleted you from our mailing list, because you hadn't received a newsletter in such a long time. Well it is great to know that our newsletters are missed! But rest assured, you haven't been deleted. We published fewer newsletters this past year because we were involved in a big project for the Archdiocese called a "visitation."

The visitation is a good thing. It means that Archbishop Gustavo wants to get to know us better. He has asked **Bishop Michael Boulette** to take the lead in this process. We are grateful for their interest and for this opportunity to reflect with them on the different aspects of MDM. We believe that this on-going process, at this time, is truly providential.





Sunday morning. It is built around spending time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. The Eucharist is exposed continually from Friday evening through Sunday morning with each of the retreatants rotating through three separate hours of adoration in the course of the weekend. Many retreatants comment on how much they particularly enjoy their nighttime period of adoration.

When not in adoration, retreatants are free to nap, read or wander the Mission property enjoying its natural beauty and many secluded prayer spots. ♦

**To learn more about our
Cor Jesu retreats:**

Website: missionofdivinemeracy.com
 Email: retreats@missionofdivinemeracy.org
 Call: Sarah or Mariano Granados at
 (830) 302-9707

COR JESU RETREATS

“It was a wonderful oasis in the middle of my current desert. I came here very heavily burdened and now I feel like a great weight has been lifted. The time that I spent with Jesus in the Adoration chapel was the highlight of the retreat.”

This autumn we held our first two *Cor Jesu* retreats: one for men and one for women. This retreat is only for people who have already made the *Encounter With Jesus* retreat. It builds on the lessons of silence, the desert and discovering the Eucharistic Jesus.

There are no talks during the weekend. The *Cor Jesu* retreat begins Friday evening and concludes before Mass on

Cor Jesu Retreat Schedule Spring 2019

May 10-12 Women / Bilingual
 June 21-23 Men / Bilingual

Encounter With Jesus Retreat Schedule Winter – Spring 2019

Jan. 24-27 Men / Spanish
 Feb. 7-10 Women / English
 Feb. 21-24 Women / Spanish
 Mar. 7-10 Men / English
 Mar. 21-24 Women / English
 May 23-26 Women / Spanish
 Jun. 6-9 Men / English



Singing the Salve after Sunday Dinner at the Sisters' House



Mass Schedule for Christmas

Dec. 24 -- Christmas Eve Mass – 9:00 PM

Dec. 25 -- Quiet Christmas Day Mass – 11:00 AM

Dec. 31 -- Vigil Mass of Mary, Mother of God – 9:00 PM



Procession with Infant ♦ Christmas Eve Mass 2017

“TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY”

A long and venerable “Oh!” comes from the group of shepherds, who fall down face to the ground and the older they are, the more they appear to be crushed by the refulgent apparition. The young ones are on their knees, looking at the angel who is coming nearer and nearer, and then he stops mid-air above the enclosure wall, waving his large wings, a pearly brightness in the white moonlight surrounding him.

“Do not fear. I am not bringing you misfortune. I announce to you a great joy for the people of Israel and for all the people of the world.” The angelic voice is the harmony of a harp and of singing nightingales.

“Today in the City of David, the Savior has been born.” In saying so, the angel spreads out his wings wider and wider, moving them as a sign of overwhelming joy, and a stream of golden sparks and precious stones seem to fall from them: a real rainbow describing a triumphal arch above the poor shed.

“...the Savior, who is Christ.” The angel shines with a brighter light. His two wings, now motionless, pointed upright towards the sky like two still sails on the sapphire of the sea, seem two bright flames ascending to Heaven.

“...Christ the Lord!” The angel gathers his sparkling wings and covers himself with them as if they were a coat of diamonds on a dress of pearls, he bows down in adoration, with his arms crossed over his heart, while his head bent down as it is, disappears in the shade of the tops of the folded wings. Only an oblong bright motionless form can be seen for a few moments.

But now he stirs. He spreads out his wings, lifts his head, bright with a heavenly smile, and says, *“You will recognize Him from the followings signs: in a poor stable, behind Bethlehem, you will find a baby in swaddling clothes, in a manger for animals, because no roof was found for the Messiah in the city of David.”* The angel becomes grave, almost sad, in saying that.

But from the Heavens many angels —Oh! How many!—come down, all like him, a ladder of angels descending and rejoicing and dimming the moonlight with their heavenly brightness. They all gather round the announcing angel, fluttering their wings, exhaling perfumes, playing notes in which the most beautiful voices of creation find a recollection, but elevated to uniform perfection. If painting is the expression of matter to become light, here melody is the expression of music to give men a hint of the beauty of God. To hear this melody is to know Paradise, where everything is harmony of love which emanates from God to make the blessed souls happy, and then from them returns to God to say to Him: *“We love You!”*

Excerpted from “Poem of the Man-God”



GROWING PAINS

We believe that the Lord wants to draw many new people to the Mission as part of His plans for the Reconquest of the hearts of His children. This is great news! We have spent much of the last two years trying to prepare to receive the people He will bring here.

We have developed Tepeyac Hill so that we could receive large crowds for Mass.

We have begun an overhaul of our website. We want it to be more responsive and informative for you, while allowing us to make updates and changes more easily. The new website should be up by early spring.

We have also purchased a new data system that will help us to efficiently record contact information for larger numbers of

people. It will help us manage our quarterly newsletters and weekly Meditations. This process has necessitated combining several current contact lists into one list. It is a painful and painstaking process! And we know that mistakes will be made.

We may soon be sending out a contact form asking our friends to confirm or correct their information. It would also be your opportunity to have your name removed from our lists.

Please know that we never purchase lists, and we never share our lists with anyone else. This is strictly for our own use. ♦

HOMILIES AVAILABLE ON LINE

Fr. John Mary's Sunday homilies are posted each week on our website: www.missionofdivinemeracy.com

DIVINE MERCY FINDS A HOME IN THE O'CALLAGHAN CENTER

The Mission is very fortunate to count Tim Sutherland as a friend. Tim is an artist and he has offered his talent to the Mission many times over in the past: from skillfully repairing damaged statues to lending his artistry to the design and development of the Chapel of The Most Blessed Sacrament.

The latest of Tim's work on behalf of the Mission has been the installation of the Divine Mercy Image in the Msgr. O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center.

From the beginning, the plan has been to have a life-size Image of the Divine Mercy anchoring the main wall. However, acquiring the right Image – size, quality, price – and then mounting it, has taken three and a half years...

This fall it finally all came together. Tim prepared the handsome inner and outer frames and mounted it all with the help of Steve Magdich. He also crowned the image with his own rendering of the Holy Spirit. Notice how well the background of the Holy Spirit matches the background in the Image of Divine Mercy.

Thank you, Tim! ♦

(Tim Sutherland and Steve Magdich up on scaffolding.)



KEEP UP WITH HAPPENINGS AT THE MISSION

Receive our weekly Meditation in your email. Available in English or Spanish.
Go to our website to sign up: www.missionofdivinemeracy.com

TEPEYAC HILL

We know that many of the people who read this newsletter live too far away to get to the Mission very often. Some of you have never been here. But you read this newsletter, and we like to keep you up to date on the physical developments as well as the spiritual.

The most important physical developments over the past year continue to take place on Tepeyac Hill. When we sent our last newsletter we were still finishing the Teocalli, our outdoor sanctuary, which will allow us to receive large crowds. Since then we have added **St. Anne's Pavilion** which provides a protected space for those who may be ill, physically handicapped or elderly. We have also completed a **third structure** which will provide Tepeyac with a sacristy; a vesting area for priests and servers; and a place for priests to rest between services or hold small conferences. ♦



On Divine Mercy Sunday 2018 we celebrated Mass for over 700 people on Tepeyac. It was a beautiful occasion and we felt that it gave us a little experience of how to work with a larger crowd. God is breaking us in gently. ♦

Divine Mercy Sunday 2018



AN IMPORTANT PRAYER REQUEST: NEW PROPERTY?

Within the space of one week, and as this newsletter is about to go to press, we have been approached by two different individuals who wonder if we would be interested in purchasing their land. Both parcels share boundary lines with the Mission. One is small, the other large. The large property, if sold to a developer, could have a tremendous negative impact on the Mission. On the other hand, if it came into our possession it would provide an important buffer against encroaching noise and development, protecting the natural surroundings and peace of the Mission that play such an important role in our retreat apostolate. It would also allow for the future growth of our Community.

We don't have the money to purchase these lands. What is God's purpose in making them available to us at this time? As with everything we do, we bring this to God in prayer. We want to do His Will and only His Will. We are asking you, our friends, to please keep this situation in your prayers. ♦





A New Kind of Mission

If you are familiar with Mother Angelica's story you know that her community sold fishing lures and peanuts to help support their ministry. And there are monks that sell fruitcakes, coffee, beer and even coffins to support their monasteries. In that same spirit, the Mission of Divine Mercy is in the process of creating a small business known as *Mission Battery*. It will sell lithium batteries that can be used in applications such as solar, golf carts, RVs, boats and camping.

We realize that this will seem very surprising to many of you. Well, let me assure you that it was surprising to the Community when I first mentioned this possibility. I am sure that some of the members were skeptical. But Fr. John Mary said that we should pray about it and see what the Lord seemed to indicate.

“Why batteries?” you might ask. Well the short answer is “Because the Lord led me to the idea.”

Shortly after my decision to enter MDM, and due to my background in engineering, Fr. John Mary asked me to investigate the potential use of solar power at the Mission. He felt that the Lord was prompting him to consider this possibility, and as always, he tried to be faithful to these promptings. So it was due to my research and implementation of solar power at the Mission that I became aware of a potential business opportunity in buying lithium batteries in bulk and reselling them for a reasonable profit.

This really caught my attention, because as President of MDM, Inc., I am very aware of the Mission budget's regular monthly shortfall, despite our many generous regular donors. It is only by the Grace of God and the surprising gifts that He sends our way every so often, that we have survived so far. We trust in His care for us--- in fact our charism is “Faith, so that God may act.” And it was this faith that made me wonder if the Lord wasn't leading us to this opportunity. If He was, we didn't want to ignore it, just because it was unlike anything we had done before.

After a lengthy discernment period that included research on the part of a small lay committee of advisors, the Community gave me permission to pursue this opportunity, with the stipulation that it couldn't take time away from our spiritual apostolate.

We took some baby steps, expecting to find “the reason” why we shouldn’t pursue it anymore, but at each hurdle that we encountered, the Lord provided the solution in the way of time, talent and treasure. For example, logistics was our first big obstacle. Where would we put all these batteries? How would we deal with receiving and shipping them? No sooner did we encounter this issue than a friend stepped forward and offered his company’s assets of receiving, storage, and shipping, at cost. Next, we needed someone to design the company logo and we needed to build a website. Immediately another person stepped forward who specializes in designing company logos and building websites. Finally, we needed a large donation of cash to make the first purchase of batteries in bulk from the manufacturer. Yet another person came forward to provide this funding. The Lord keeps opening the doors for us and as long as He does, we will be obedient and step through them.

The batteries that we will be selling are mostly similar in size to car batteries; although we will also be selling some very large solar batteries. The lithium technology that we are selling is “safe” (i.e. non-explosive). We have already sold our first three on eBay and have another 110 on order from the manufacturer. David Reed is working through all the legal, tax and regulatory issues. *Mission Battery* is run under an LLC which limits any risks to the Mission of Divine Mercy, should it be sued or ultimately fail.

There is still a long way to go before this company is completely off the ground, but we wanted to make everyone aware of it. Our website is still under development and there are a host of other hurdles to jump, but we do have our handsome logo, thanks to the talent of Marina Nolen, and the domain name **www.missionbattery.com**. You can see the website (in progress) if you wish.

We aren’t sure where the Lord is leading us with this business, nor how long He will make it viable. I think Mother Angelica sold fishing lures for half a dozen years and then changed to selling peanuts for a number of years. We could be in business for a day or dozens of years; only God knows. But even though it is unlike anything we have done before, we ask of you what we always request: your prayers that we are faithful to God’s will for us.

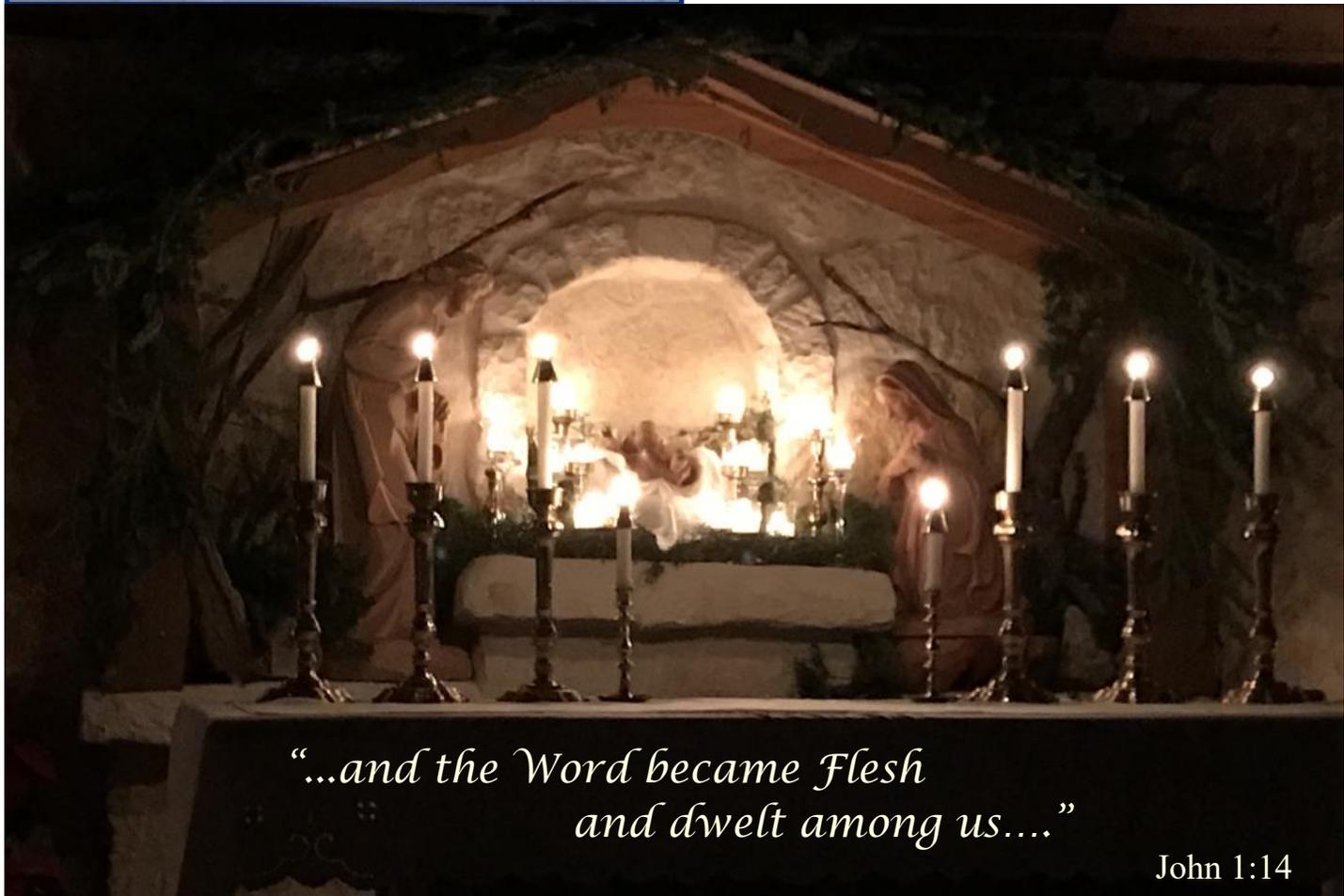
by Peter Roderique, MDM ♦



Mission of Divine Mercy
P.O. Box 1759
Canyon Lake, TX 78133



“...the power
of the Most High
will overshadow You...”
Luke 1:35



*“...and the Word became Flesh
and dwelt among us...”*

John 1:14