

“Mercy is love that seeks to lessen the misery of others”
 — Bryan Thatcher, MD

Fires, falls, explosions, car accidents. Most of the patients Marie Romagnano, RN, has seen in her line of work have sustained catastrophic injuries in some of the most terrifying ways.

“You name it, I’ve seen it,” said Marie, the founder and director of the Marian Fathers’ apostolate Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

Many of her patients have overcome their life-threatening injuries through more than just good medical care. They have healed through prayer and the power of Divine Mercy.

“Total patient care,” is how Marie puts it.

“The Divine Mercy message and devotion is a tool that the Lord gives us, not only to help our patients, but to help ourselves and our personal lives to grow in grace,” said Marie, of Charlton, Massachusetts, the co-author of the book *Nursing with the Hands of Jesus: A Guide to Nurses for Divine Mercy* (Marian Press) with Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and the Very Rev. Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC. “As a Healthcare Professional for Divine Mercy you are always aware that you are the spiritual link to Christ, you are His merciful presence at the bedside of the patient.”

Unfortunately, many Catholic healthcare professionals in the United States don’t know how to integrate a healthy spirituality into their medical practices. Spiritual care of patients, according to Marie, should involve more than merely calling for a priest. “You really need to pray for your patients and talk to the family members. You’re a patient advocate in giving the spiritual care that not only the patient needs, but the family needs,” she said.

In light of this need, for the past 14 years, Marie has helped educate healthcare professionals through annual conferences that feature top experts in the fields of medicine, bioethics, and Divine Mercy.

“Basically, many of us were healthcare professionals that wanted to follow the guidelines of our Catholic faith, but we were so busy that we didn’t know where to go to find the information and how to use it,” she said.

The success of the conferences has now led to a new initiative: compiling the best of those conference talks into a free online video series titled “Healthcare & Divine Mercy Matters.” Set to launch on Divine Mercy Sunday, the video series will be available through the website DivineMercyMatters.org



New healthcare series launching Mercy Sunday

In 2005, when the first conference sold out 30 days in advance, Marie knew she was onto something. Throughout the years, prominent Divine Mercy experts, doctors, and nurses have spoken on topics including abortion, contraception, and end-of-life issues, as well as spiritual care of patients.

“For those who have been unable to attend any of those conferences, we’re pleased to now bring them to you,” said Marie.

Meanwhile, the 15th Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference will be held on May 7-8 at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Most Rev. Robert McManus, bishop of the Diocese of Worcester, will give a talk entitled “Transgenderism: The Multifaceted Challenges to the Moral Teachings of the Church” and direct a panel discussion.

Gosia Brykczynska, author of *Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, A Nurse of Mercy* (Marian Press), will speak on the life and mission of 20th-century Polish nurse Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska (1902-1973), who saved thousands from starvation during the Second World War and was beatified last April at the International Divine Mercy Shrine in Lagiewniki-Krakow, Poland. She’s the first lay registered nurse to be beatified, letting the light of faith illuminate the nursing and medical practice.

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/worcester for more information about the conference.

— Marc Massery

CENACLES UPDATE

Cenacle facilitators: Please register your cenacle with the EADM office and send in the names and addresses of members so all members receive our newsletter. Mail to: EADM, 10016 Park Place Avenue, Riverview, Florida, 33578.



LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

Nancy LaCross wrote and told us:

Members of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) cenacle at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on Langley Air Force Base are enjoying our formation and are growing together as a group. The group excels in doing works of mercy and learning, sharing, and living the message of Divine Mercy. Recently, we collected funds to assist EADM in Tampa, Florida, with its shipment of supplies to Kenya. The funds were raised in a three-month special project in which we all placed coins and dollars into so-called “Mercy Banks” each time we performed a corporal or spiritual work of mercy. Our works of mercy included visiting the sick, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, burying the dead, and tending to the elderly. The Mercy Bank project originated in 2016 during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It’s important to keep doing the work Jesus has given us.

Last year, we attended a Day of Reflection with Dr. Bryan Thatcher in Virginia. We enjoyed the day of spirituality and fellowship. Our group loves delving deeper into the Divine Mercy message. We are committed to growing in our spiritual lives and being reflections of the Divine Mercy Image to those we encounter each day.



CEDAR PARK, TEXAS

Roni Cook wrote and told us:

We have many cenacles at St. Margaret Mary, and another group has just formed, with Gigi Bost as the facilitator. Groups 10 and 11 had their induction on Saturday, March 2, at the First Saturday noon Mass.

As Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, we spread the message of mercy in many ways, including by distributing Divine Mercy prayer cards or images to nursing homes or assisted living facilities, to family and friends, or to private prayer partners. One member remembered the time when a close friend was going through a rough time, and she invited her to Eucharistic Adoration for some private prayer time.

We have been honored to provide materials in the narthex for many years, due to the generosity of our EADM members. We continue to provide prayer aids during Adoration on First Friday, First Saturday, and Wednesday morning Adoration. This year we will distribute the novena pamphlet at all Palm Sunday Masses in Spanish and English, as well as Divine Mercy materials on Divine Mercy Sunday Masses.

Members actively participate in our special Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and Holy Hour. Many have made their Marian consecration or consecration to Divine Mercy, so it was not surprising that attendance was high at Fr. Michael Gaitley’s Mercy & Mary retreat in Austin, Texas. Our members also assist in many ways at St. Margaret Mary conferences.

Individually, members have facilitated (or attended) adult formation classes on themes that include Mary, Divine Mercy, and the Sacraments. With this enthusiasm, it is wonderful to see our members lead the Chaplet before Masses on the third Sunday of each month. Additional spiritual works of mercy include serving as sacristan at daily Mass or First Friday/First Saturday; serving as Eucharistic ministers; and bringing Communion to the homebound or nursing homes. Many attend the funerals of the parish family; help with bereavement meals; and sing at funeral Masses in order to comfort the sorrowing.

Some are active in organized corporal works of mercy, including Mobile Loaves & Fishes and our Community Food Pantry that distributes food and clothes to those in most need. One individual volunteers with the disabled, and another has adopted children with special needs. We also have members in the nursing profession who pray for babies being born. Many help with the pro-life movement, including attending Mass for this intention. Some have given rides to those in need to parish events or to run errands. As we remember, we are all one body in Christ, and we seek to uplift each other in prayer, by word, and by evangelization, and to offer encouragement. We pray for our two priests and our five deacons. Our most recent diaconate candidates have been EADM facilitators. We plan to attend their ordinations.

Little did we know when we planned and celebrated a “Day to Honor Our Lady,” after the 100th anniversary of Fatima, that we would incorporate a “Year to Honor Our Lady” in the form of an open prayer cenacle. We will invite people from EADM and our parish to learn more about Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and to grow to love her more. Lupe Gamez and I, both EADM facilitators, were blessed to co-facilitate the “Mary First Saturday” mornings throughout the year.

Barbara Bartley, cenacle facilitator for many years, had previously read Dr. Robert Stackpole’s *Mary: Who She Is and Why She Matters* (Marian Press) with her cenacle after they completed EADM *Cenacle Formation Manual 1*, were inducted into EADM, and finished *Cenacle Formation Manuals 2 and 3*. She was able to read five pages at each meeting with her group.

I think our favorite moment was seeing people discovering aspects of Mary that they hadn’t known about, such as what the Immaculate Conception really means. We are grateful to open up our formation method of praying and sharing with people from adult formation groups. We are also grateful to Fr. James Martin for answering questions by phone and visiting our parish.



SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA

Estella Perallon wrote and told us:

As a cenacle facilitator, I see how, as a group, we struggle with faithfulness, obedience, and trust in the Lord. Our group meets weekly on Mondays, from 7 to 9 p.m., at our church, St. Ferdinand Church. Our pastor hears nothing but positive comments from our group. We absolutely love all of the things we learn. As with anything else, the struggle comes down to this: How do we put our learning into practice? In addition to our lessons, I have worked hard to empower each member who wishes to guide the group on those occasions when I can't make the cenacle meeting.

Recently, those of us who serve in our church attended a retreat for those who serve. Just the mere presence of some of us from our group inspired someone who is already very committed to ask if she could attend the cenacle. This tells me that she heard some positive comments on our experience.

Our group members shared some comments. Pablo said, "I love the structured learning, the discipline, the virtues that St. Faustina exercised and we should model." A couple of members are illiterate and quite elderly. They love the fact that the materials are being read to them; they are learning in this way. It allows them to participate in the prayers and contribute to the discussions. Member Rosario said, "I love to learn about my faith and how to grow in trust of the Lord. All things are possible when we walk hand in hand with Jesus. I want to share what I've learned with the next generation." Raquel added, "Every parish should have this group. I would love to redo the first year because I feel I may have missed a lot while I was first learning to look up Scripture and becoming familiar with all the other resources we use. It took me awhile. But I absolutely love everything we are learning, all the different resources we use, and all that Sr. Faustina saw and shared. I especially enjoyed the lessons on humility and obedience, but one lesson impacted me the most. It was the discussion on how when Sr. Faustina was in Mass and saw the priest with the Host in the form of the Infant Jesus." Lastly, Irma stated, "I have learned to be more compassionate with those in need, to trust in the Lord, to do what is expected of me without complaining, and to be more grateful to God on a daily basis. What has impacted me the most is the peace I feel when I trust and abandon myself in the Lord, and also that I have learned to pray for others more than I pray for myself."

As a group, most of us attend daily Mass and participate in Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday and the last Friday of every

month. We also pray every hour for the suffering. Individually, we pray for the needs of the unborn, the end of legalized abortion, our priests, the sick, and for an increase of priestly and religious vocations. We are also involved in fundraising for our church, which is in great need of an air conditioner and many needed repairs.



HARARE, UGANDA

Maria Munyavi wrote and told us:

In the late 1990s, Gogo Chipiti used to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet with her family whenever they had problems. In 2009, Mrs. Chipiti was joined by the late Mrs. Matendewafa and Mrs. Samuriwo in praying the Novena to Divine Mercy. From the beginning, children from these families joined in the prayers and novenas of Divine Mercy. When the number of children grew to about 40, evening prayers, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet, were organized for them. Mrs. Chipiti got to know about other groups when she worked at Mashambanzou in October 2010. She made contacts with me at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Waterfalls.

Around 2011, Mrs. Chipiti introduced Divine Mercy at Uganda Martyrs Church. Ever since 2011, the Divine Mercy cenacle has been praying the novena starting on Good Friday. For three consecutive years, we have also hosted all-night prayers in July for the priest and religious.

Our works of mercy include:

- 1.) Every third Friday of the month we meet with some other parishes for Divine Mercy all-night prayers;
- 2.) we make photocopies of prayers and distribute to people;
- 3.) the Wednesday group is teaching people about the Divine Mercy prayers and Chaplet; and
- 4.) every day the children meet for Divine Mercy prayers with the guidance of Mrs. Chipiti and Mrs. Chikwaka.

We have many testimonies from people who received graces through their devotion to Divine Mercy.

We are in dire need of Bibles, copies of St. Faustina's *Diary*, Divine Mercy Images, Rosaries, and any reading material on St. Faustina and other saints. Thank you, and pray for us!

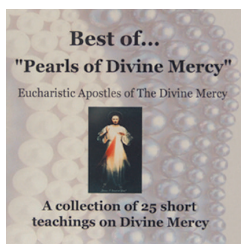


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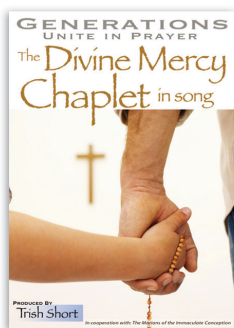
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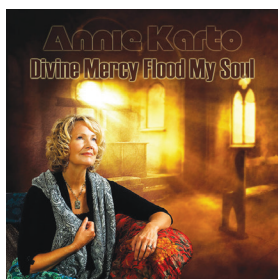
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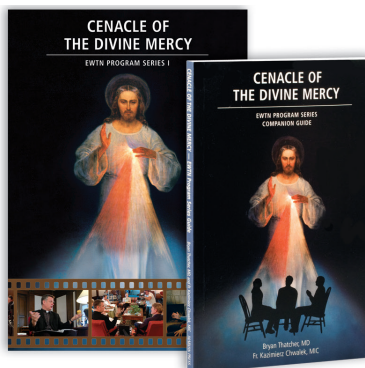
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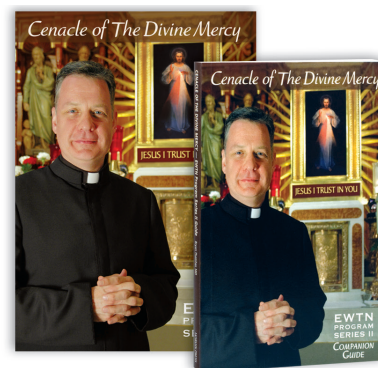


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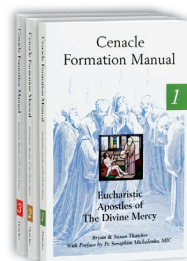


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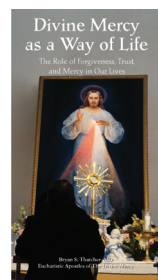
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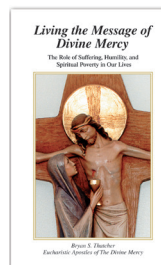


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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Fran Raven wrote and told us:

After meeting with a group for many years of praying and meditating, Clair Favela and Fran Raven found themselves in 2004 without a cenacle. Our members loved our prayer time together and wished to continue to meet for prayer and fellowship. Clair spoke to friends, and the suggestion was made to form a Divine Mercy cenacle. Clair investigated, and we invited some friends and ordered the series of EADM cenacle formation manuals. The Lord led us to hold the cenacle meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the mornings after Mass. Saint Louis Catholic Church agreed to let us meet in Walsh Hall, and we initially drew people, mostly women, from St. Louis and Good Shepherd churches.

Clair moved to New Mexico and Marita McCollum took over co-facilitating with me. Our membership numbers have held to around nine to 14 people through our 14-year existence. At times, we have a few men join us, but presently we are all women. The diocesan weekly paper, Arlington Herald, was kind enough to include announcements of our meetings. As a result, individuals from other churches have joined the group.

Several members have moved on and begun another cenacle at their own church. One of our members, Judy O'Neill, has begun a morning and evening session in St. Augustine, Florida. Our work of mercy for 12 years had been to prepare and serve lunch to our area homeless citizens at the Elks (Rock) once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. The fare consisted of spaghetti and meatballs, which we purchased and prepared, plus a salad. As our members were finding it increasingly difficult with the physical demands, we stopped that work of mercy and are visiting the homebound and those hospitalized and praying the Chaplet



of Divine Mercy with them.

We have covered all three formation books twice and are beginning for the third time in February. At times, we read about our Blessed Mother from various sources. We can never get enough of God's messages through St. Faustina's *Diary*, the Bible, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Our members enjoy the sharing of the messages and how St. Faustina's experiences apply to their own lives. Many of the ladies have continued to learn, pray, and share their own lives as it applies to the readings.

Monica, a group member, added, "I really like our group of ladies, with the diversity in ages, professional, racial, and religious backgrounds (including one revert from Protestantism, a Muslim who converted, lapsed Catholic(s) who came back to the faith, etc.). For me, that is very special. The diverse mix of ladies undertakes on a bimonthly basis reading and analyzing selected passages from St. Faustina's *Diary*. The group also reads from selected biblical passages and the *Catechism* that relate to the selected readings from the *Diary*. In addition, the selected *Diary* passages for a given meeting provide the "fodder" for lively discussions on life, faith, and its various challenges.

Kenya shipment on its way!

Working with Rose Oginga, a native Kenyan living in Tampa, Florida, we are preparing to load and ship a 40-foot container of medical supplies to Kenya to be given to hospitals caring for the indigent. The container includes 250 boxes of diverse supplies and several hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, Hoyer lifts, and more.

"It will be one of the best containers we have shipped in many years," said Dr. Bryan Thatcher, director of EADM. "I hope these items benefit those who need them the most. These items are all donated. The contents are worth more than \$200,000. In the United States, we discard and waste so much. These items are like gold to those in need. I continue to ask for your financial support so we can continue our work."



WANT TO START A CENACLE? Call the EADM office toll free at 1-877-380-0727, and we'll send you a free informational packet with a DVD on the ministry.



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Dr. Bryan Thatcher, director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy,
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- March 21 — Day of Reflection, Diocese of Peoria,
Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria, Illinois
- March 23 — Day of Reflection, St. Stephen Catholic Church,
Riverview, Florida
- April 6-9 — Parish Mission, Annunciation Parish,
Port Austin, Michigan
- April 26-27 — Parish Mission, Toronto Pavilion, Toronto Canada

Bryan's talks focus on Divine Mercy; St. Faustina and Praying the
Chaplet for the Sick and Dying; and Mary, Mother of Mercy.

If your cenacle would like to have Dr. Thatcher speak at your
parish, call the EADM office at 1-877-380-0727 and ask for a free
pack on a Day of Reflection.

