

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

A *Divine Mercy Cenacle is a group of people who spread the message of Divine Mercy, help others understand the beauty and sanctity of human life, and engage in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The cenacles regularly meet for song, prayer, and discussion on Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the writings of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. In this issue, we'll let some of our cenacle leaders share news about their cenacles. First, Kate Ryan writes about the Cenacle of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.*

Our cenacle is very blessed to meet at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. The cenacle had its beginnings in the home of founder, Mary Nowe, in May 2006. The membership started with a few but grew as time passed and outgrew Mary's living room. When Mary moved out of state in 2013, Laurie Forfa became the new facilitator and lovingly led our meetings until the pandemic brought our in-person inspiring gatherings to a halt. At that time, we began in home study and Laurie would send us the agenda of readings and we said our Chaplet at home. Eventually in 2022 we were able to attend Mass together at the Oratory at the National Shrine, help with prayer intentions at the Marian Helpers Center, as we previously had, and pray the Rosary in the chapel. But we still were unable to meet in a previous location on the grounds, due to new restrictions since COVID.

On January 18, 2023, Laurie let us know she had a health incident that took her to the ER, but she was released and returned home. We were all shocked when on February 2, 2023, Laurie suddenly passed away.

Our cenacle members were determined to keep our cenacle going, but had to find a new location for meetings. Thanks to Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, the rector of the National Shrine, we were able to resume in-person meetings in August 2023. Currently we meet the second Wednesday of the month, and we are blessed to begin our meeting day with Mass at the National Shrine, with our meeting immediately afterwards, downstairs in Memorial Hall.

We were also thrilled to be able to resume a long-held annual Baby Shower in support of Pregnancy Support Services of Pittsfield. This took place in December 2023 at our “Celebration for Choosing Life” meeting. From now on it will be called the “Laurie Forfa Annual Baby Shower for Pregnancy

Support Services.”

New member Jo-Anne Dooley stated at our recent meeting, “I'm excited to return to the cenacle this Wednesday. For me, the cenacle provides a gathering space for faith formation to enhance knowledge of our Catholic faith as it applies to our everyday lives.”

Mary Anne Murray expressed her benefit as a member: “Whenever we read or discuss Scripture, the *Diary of St Faustina*, or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, I feel I understand or get a better idea of what is being discussed. I appreciate other's thoughts and feelings. I go home refreshed in the Lord!”



MEET SOME OF OUR DIVINE MERCY CENACLES

If you want a free packet on starting a Divine Mercy Cenacle, please call EADM at 1-877-380-0727. Visit TheDivineMercy.org/cenacle for more information.

Member Susan Groshong sums up her cenacle benefits this way: “To me the Divine Mercy Cenacle group has always been a source of many blessings, known and, I am quite sure, many unknown. I was introduced to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy years earlier by a woman who was not Catholic but said, ‘I think you will like it there.’ Thus began my journey back to the Catholic Church. I have treasured St. Faustina's *Diary* since first opening and reading parts of it, picking it up time and again to ponder its hidden wisdom. That is my favorite part of the cenacle meetings; to read and share the *Diary* together with others in the group. I sense my life is truly enriched when I am able to actively participate in the life of the Divine Mercy Cenacle, and I'm sure it then



TRACY, CALIFORNIA

Buena Diaz wrote and told us:

Our EADM Divine Mercy Ministry at Saint Bernard Catholic Church in Tracy began with the merciful love of Jesus. During the pandemic, through the works (books and talks) of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, my heart was rekindled and set aflame with burning love for Jesus, which prompted me to ask Him, “Jesus, what can I do for you?” His answer led me to start the EADM Divine Mercy Ministry, with the help of my family, friends, and Dr. Bryan Thatcher.

Our pastor, Fr. David Dutra, who is supportive and loves Divine Mercy, approved our EADM Divine Mercy ministry on June 30, 2022. We had a formal meeting with him on March 16, 2023, and our proposal for Divine Mercy Sunday was approved. Last Divine Mercy Sunday, we were able to distribute Divine Mercy Images, prayer cards, and Divine Mercy Sunday pamphlets during all Divine Mercy Sunday Masses at the church. Immediately after the Divine Mercy Sunday, our members grew from family and friends to other parishioners.

Our in-person meeting is a loving, caring, and safe environment for sharing, healing, and growing in faith. We want to help heal the broken world, one soul at a time. As Jesus told St. Faustina:

The greater the sinner, the greater the rights to My Mercy
(*Diary*, 723).

The flames of mercy are burning in Me – clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don’t want to believe in My goodness (*Diary*, 177).

We want to bring souls, both living and the deceased, to Jesus, as many as we can through the mission and devotion to Divine Mercy.

We have schedules to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet 24/7 for the following intentions: praying for the Pope, bishops, and clergy; an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious and consecrated life; an end to abortion, suicide, euthanasia, killings, and war; the conversion of sinners; the sick and the dying; and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

We also join our Knights of Columbus in the cemetery to pray for the unborn and an end of abortion every First Saturday. We pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the intentions of Pope St. John Paul II.

We consecrated/reconsecrated ourselves to Jesus through Mary on Dec. 8, 2023, the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by reading and pondering *33 Days to Morning Glory*. We will also study *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*. We will begin *33 Days to Merciful Love*, and we will have our consecration/reconsecration day to

Divine Mercy on April 6, 2024.

Saint Bernard’s will also host its first Divine Mercy Conference on April 6. One of our guest speakers will be Dr. Bryan Thatcher. The Divine Mercy Sunday Vigil Mass will be at 5 p.m. and will be celebrated by Bishop Myron Cotta.



NORTHGLENN, COLORADO

Gwen Lagunas wrote and told us:

Our Divine Mercy Group from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Northglenn began in 2019. We started with a group of 11 and currently have 25 members. We are growing spiritually with our Lord and the messages of St. Faustina through the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The first time we got together we wanted to plan a trip to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Because of COVID we had to postpone that trip, but our group continued to get together every week for Mass, prayer, and fellowship. We eventually made it to Stockbridge in 2021 and were blessed with a spirit-filled pilgrimage.

One of our main outreach efforts has been to help our priest, Fr. Isidore Orjikwe, with his charity in Nigeria. Our group helped organize fundraisers, and in January 2023 several group members flew with Father to Obiagu, Nigeria to open the Divine Mercy Hospital which serves those in need with free or reduced cost medical care.

We have organized several other pilgrimages including San Luis, Colorado, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, both led by Fr. Isidore, and just recently our new pastor, Fr. Ernest Bayer, led us on a pilgrimage to South Dakota.

Our group will spend 2024 in a year-long spiritual pilgrimage reading *52 Weeks with Saint Faustina* and the *Cenacle Formation Manual*. We all look forward to being Apostles of Divine Mercy to help us grow each day in understanding of His love and mercy. Countless times God has shown our group the power of prayer and His mercy, and we look forward to continuing our faith journey together. “Jesus, we trust in You!”



CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA

Judy Whitecrane wrote and told us:

Our Casa Grande Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy Ministry at St. Anthony of Padua Church began on February 23, 2020 when 33 members were inducted. Twenty-four hour Eucharistic Adoration began on Friday, February 28, 2020, after the 7 a.m. Mass and lasted until the next morning (Saturday). All hours were covered by multiple Adorers, including EADM members and others. This has continued every Friday, and at 3 p.m. we also pray or sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

There are both men and women in our EADM ministry. Jo Ruth Spellman volunteered to lead us from the beginning. She has been a faithful leader of our cenacle and is always prepared for our meetings when we gather to say the Chaplet, reflect on our lesson from St. Faustina, and share our insights and grow together. During the COVID pandemic, she led us in our zoom meetings. She founded the Crockpot Ministry as a work of mercy, and she is always available to help other ministries too.

Carol Moreno shared her thoughts: "Opening our meetings with an attitude of gratitude in prayers with one another brings us a greater under-

standing of our blessings. Then our requests for people in need for prayer is enlightening to how important prayer is for everyone in their time of need. Being a prayer warrior for many years by receiving prayer requests from Hospice and other Christian groups, I felt we as members of EADM should all participate in this rewarding experience of bringing encouragement and love to others who feel helpless with situations out of their control. By turning it over to God it builds our trust and gives them hope to a better solution which they so appreciate in their time of need. Also, sharing our thoughts at our meetings from the lessons has created depth in my beliefs and helps me to understand and accept other opinions."

Judy Sellmeyer added, "I have made a Holy Hour each Friday at 3 p.m. for over 10 years. Yet becoming a part of EADM deepened my experience of receiving Holy Communion with our Lord each week. Reading St. Faustina made me aware of the thin veil that existed between her and Jesus. I could not keep my mind focused on my prayers for an hour, but she, by example, gives me hope for improvement. Adoration and receiving Holy Communion is as close as I can get to Jesus as a mortal human being, and reading St. Faustina's *Diary* helps me understand the life that exists in Heaven that we hope to experience someday. She was in such close contact with our Lord. She truly lived for Jesus! What an example!"

Our works of mercy include our Crockpot Ministry, feeding the homeless. The Family and Life Ministry cares for women and children who are in need with diapers, wipes, and clothing. The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry cares for the poor. There are EADM members who volunteer in the office, food pantry, and store.

We seem to be spread throughout our church and community doing works of mercy. We all want to love as Christ loves, and give hope to this hurting world.



SAMOA

Tina Paia wrote and told us:

The Divine Mercy message officially arrived on our shores in the year 1995 and was well received by the late Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u who was the Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Samoa-Apia at the time. He received Dr. Bryan Thatcher, and the message of Divine Mercy spread among the Polynesian Islands. He appointed Fr. Alapati Lui Mataeliga to be the EADM spiritual director, and when Cardinal Pio died a few years later, Father was appointed to assume the position. He was instrumental in getting the World Apostolic Congress on Divine Mercy (WACOM) held in Samoa, but died just a few weeks before the event.

A team of priests and Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy from America conducted seminars in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Mulivai. A core team was born out of these seminars with its main mission of spreading the Divine Mercy message to the whole

of the Archdiocese of Samoa-Apia. This same team was instrumental in taking the Divine Mercy message to the Catholic Samoan diaspora in American Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, Tonga, and Fiji.

The Archdiocese of Samoa Apia is divided into seven vicariates, each with its own leadership team comprised of a priest as spiritual father and executive committee members. They are responsible for decision making for the spiritual growth and development of members and cenacles. They meet monthly with the leaders of each parish cenacle to discuss the corporal works of mercy carried out by each group and how they can help each other. The *Cenacle Formation Manual* parts 1-3 have been translated into the Samoan language for use in weekly prayer meetings.

We ended the year 2023 celebrating the closing of the Eucharistic year, a heart of Thanksgiving to the Lord for preparations of the WACOM 5, and also the hard work of EADM in Samoa. Also remembered were the late Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u, Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga, Lesina Levy, and all Divine Mercy devotees who died. May they rest in peace.



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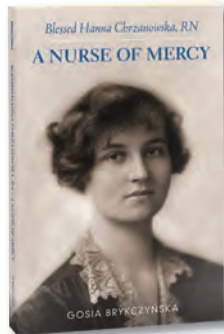
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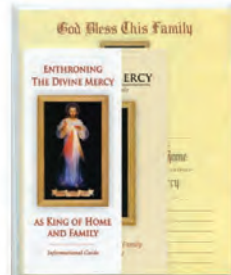
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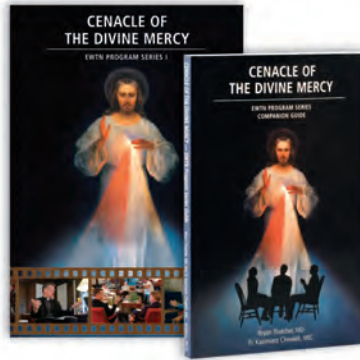


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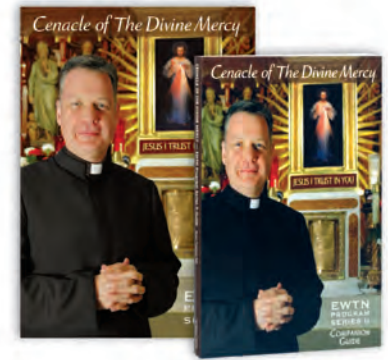
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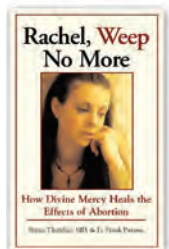


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We know that the Archangel Gabriel told Mary that “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Lk 1:35). That is, Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit. And one of the fruits of the Spirit is patience, as it says in Galatians 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.”



The tendency in our world today is to live a fast-paced lifestyle and seek instant gratification. The concept of working for something “down the road” is a difficult one to understand. One of the saints once said that if we bear slight things patiently, we shall acquire courage and strength to bear great things.

Mary is called “most patient.” Mary rose above the din, confusion, and disorder of her time to point us toward the path of salvation. She guides us to her Son, Jesus. Think about how she felt when she and Joseph were being turned away from the inn and she had to give birth in a stable. Imagine how she made a crib from a manger and filled it with straw. She patiently endured the persecution under Herod. She patiently searched with sorrow for her 12-year-old Son, Jesus, when He was in the temple. And she patiently endured and suffered alongside Jesus during the Crucifixion.

Mary put all her hardships into perspective. She suffered and patiently resigned herself to God’s will. She is “Most Patient.” Through her example, she shows us how, through patience, we may gain a greater love for Christ and for our neighbor.



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CENACLES

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overflows to others.”

Our suffering soul, Fred Paulmann, who currently is treated for cancer stated, “As one who is unable to attend cenacle meetings, I am blessed to experience the love and prayerful support of such a close and powerful family where the love and mercy of God is so evident.”

Nancy Prezenik, a member since 2016, added, “The formation manuals which we study at each meeting have really spoken to me and guided me. They also help me put all these blessings into action. Ours is a small but a caring enthusiastic group that looks out for each other both physically and spiritually. Our recently deceased leader, Laurie, was an inspiration to us all.”

I must add, we have no doubt Laurie is in Heaven. When she looked at you it was a look of agape love, and I can’t help but see the Divine Mercy Image superimposed over her face with radiant joy.

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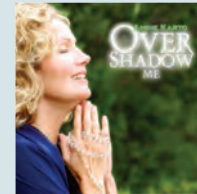
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Our new address is: Dr. Bryan Thatcher, EADM, 12452 Horseshoe Bend Drive, Lithia, FL 33547.