



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

June 2016

Vol.6 Issue 2

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center
2281 North Swan Boulevard
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 302-0240
www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center celebrates the Universal Call to Holiness by providing spiritual direction in the Roman Catholic tradition to men and women with a special emphasis on vocational discernment for young adults.

We foster a love for Mary in school children through the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop and with presentations on topics pertinent to the pursuit of holiness in youngsters.

Foundational to the work of the Center is the unsurpassed Ignatian scholarship of the late Reverend Jules J. Toner, S.J. We are the first Catholic Spirituality Center in the world dedicated to promoting his writings and life of holiness.

From the desk of Mary...

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

As we approach the first anniversary of our move to 2281 N. Swan Blvd., it is a joy to report that the work of the Center has been profoundly blessed in this beautiful setting. We continue to receive referrals regularly for spiritual direction and vocational discernment from priests and those whose lives have been touched by the Center. We are so grateful for this ongoing support.

If you have not yet stopped by to visit, please consider doing so. We have several first class relics for veneration as well as a small Catholic lending library. We would love to welcome you. So that we can best accommodate your schedule, please call in advance to set up a time.

In proclaiming the year 2016 an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis invites the faithful to ponder the consoling and challenging words of Jesus, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Mt. 5:7) In celebration of this Jubilee Year, we are dedicating this issue of our newsletter to reflections on mercy, the greatest attribute of God. We hope you enjoy the read.

At the Center we often celebrate the joys and mourn the sorrows of family life as experienced by the directee. Pope Francis reminds us, "Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows." (Philadelphia, Sept.26, 2015)

Imagine the graces of the Year of Mercy on the world if each of us would make this heartfelt request of God-- Lord, show me how and when to be merciful towards my family, and expand my heart in love to make Your mercy known to them. This simple prayer would set us free.

Here at Our Lady of Grace, we remember you this summer with heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing financial and spiritual support of our sacred mission-- indeed, for all the

mercy you show us. We send you kind thoughts, and hope that your own deepest desires for mercy are met by our Lord and those you love to superabundance during this year of special graces. God bless you!

Father Joe Corpora, C.S.C., Missionary of Mercy

We congratulate a dear friend of the Center, the Rev. Joseph V. Corpora, C.S.C., on being named by Pope Francis one of 125 Missionaries of Mercy from the United States.

Missionaries of Mercy are priests from around the world who have been commissioned by the Holy Father to make themselves very available to hear confessions and preach on God's infinite mercy and how we can enter into that mercy. They have been given other special faculties extending through the Jubilee Year which will end on the Feast of Christ the King (November 20, 2016) including permission to absolve four sins¹ which would otherwise be reserved to the Holy See.

Pope Francis stated that the Missionaries of Mercy "will be, above all, living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of His pardon." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, §18)

¹<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/so-what-are-these-missionaries-of-mercy-actually-doing-90852/>.



Fr. Joe celebrating Mass with the students at the University of Notre Dame. (Photo courtesy of the Holy Cross Vocations Office.)

Divine Mercy in Our Soul

Since her canonization in the year 2000, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska has already become one of the most beloved saints in the Church. Her fame has spread widely through the inspired prayers of the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* which are contained in her *Diary* and which Our Lord told her He desired be spread throughout the world¹. (*Diary*, 848)

In her *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*, Saint Faustina wrote with the utmost tenderness, "I feel tremendous pain when I see the sufferings of my neighbors. All my neighbors' sufferings reverberate in my own heart; I carry their anguish in my heart in such a way that it even physically destroys me. I would like all their sorrows to fall upon me, in order to relieve my neighbor" (*Diary*, 365). It is these words that Pope Saint John Paul II chose to reflect upon in his homily for her canonization, stating, "It is this love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person." (§6)

Also during her canonization homily, Saint John Paul II designated the Second Sunday of Easter each year to be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday in accord with our Lord's own words to Saint Faustina, "**On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity...The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.**" (*Diary*, 699)

Let us pray that by placing our trust in Jesus, and through the intercession of Saint Faustina, we may constantly seek, obtain and spread the Divine Mercy.

¹Instructions on how to pray the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* can be found online at <http://www.USCCB.org>.

Memorial



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center gratefully acknowledges the following gift:

- In memory of Agnes J. Ryan, founder of Our Blessed Lady of Victory Mission, Inc. (Mrs. Lisa Hutchinson, Executor)

Irish Eyes Are Smiling!

Congratulations to Our Lady of Grace volunteer, Miss Nicolette Bardele, on your graduation from the University of Notre Dame on Sunday, May 15, 2016. We are so happy for you! We further congratulate you on your acceptance into the Harvard University Doctoral Program in Sociology. We wish you a wonderful summer, and God's choicest blessings throughout graduate school and in all future endeavors.

We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace.**

Holy Door Indulgence for the Faithful

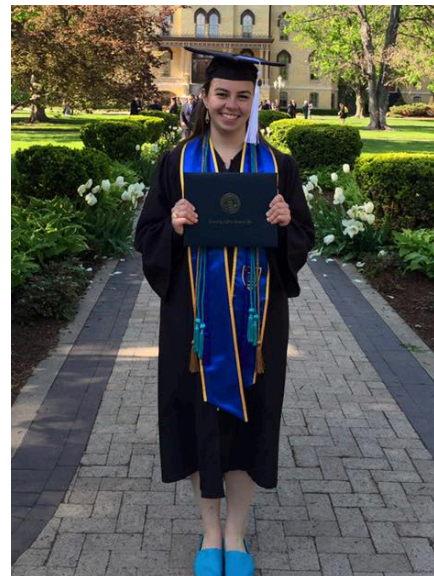
On September 1, 2015, Pope Francis announced an indulgence¹ for the faithful who enter a Holy Door with a sincere desire for conversion of heart during this Jubilee Year. In addition to the doors of the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, this applies to the entrance of every Cathedral in the world, as well as shrines and churches so designated in every diocese. He writes, "It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the Profession of Faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world."

With consoling words he addresses those for whom it will be impossible to travel. To the sick and elderly he writes, "Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving Communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence." To prisoners he offers the indulgence in the chapels of the prisons and at the threshold of their cells if they direct their thoughts and prayers to the Father.

He goes on to address the richness of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy stating, "Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence."

And finally, "Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude."

¹For an explanation of indulgences in the Church, see ¶¶ 1471-1479 and 1498 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and visit <https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/what.htm>.



A day for celebrating! Nicolette Bardele with degree in hand.