

## The Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter Sunday ~ March 27, 2016

Welcome to St. Mary! If you would like to become a parishioner, we invite you to complete a registration form, which can be found in the information kiosk. You may place the completed form in the collection basket during the Offertory of the Mass or mail it to the Parish Office. You may also request a registration form via our website. If you are moving away from the parish, please call the parish office and notify us so we may remove your name from our registry. Thank you.

### PARISH NOTICES:

**There will be NO DAILY MASS Monday, March 28 through Thursday, March 31.**

There will be no Religious Education classes or Children's Choir practice held on Easter Sunday.

### **INCENSE NOTIFICATION**

Incense will be used during the following Masses:

- Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. (Easter Vigil)
- Sunday, March 27 at 11:00 a.m. (Easter Sunday)
- Sunday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. (Divine Mercy Sunday)

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Fr. Jude Eli

Monday, April 11 - Thursday, April 14  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The Church's Relationship to Islam:  
The Sharing of the Same God.



Please see the upcoming bulletins for more information.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

St. Vincent de Paul has been offered the opportunity to move the food bank into the Music Room of the FAC. We are very grateful to Fr. Straz and the staff for recognizing the Food Bank's growing emerging need for more space to store food and better assist our clients. Thus, we are asking for help from any parishioners with experience in "space planning" who would be willing to volunteer their services to help us design a floorplan that will maximize

our new space! If interested,

please contact Laurie Liberty at (360) 731-3505  
or email at [laurie.liberty@yahoo.com](mailto:laurie.liberty@yahoo.com).

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION OPEN HOURS AVAILABLE**

SUNDAY	2 am; 6, 11 pm
MONDAY	12, 1, 2, 3 am
TUESDAY	12, 1, 2, 3, 4 am; 11 pm
WEDNESDAY	3, 4 am; 11 pm
THURSDAY	12, 1, 2, 3 am; 10 pm
FRIDAY	3 am
SATURDAY	9, 10, 11 pm

### **Mass Intentions**

April 1 Nick Petrish (Int.)  
April 2 John Frier +

### **Weekly Calendar of Events at the Parish**

#### **Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday**

8:00 a.m. **Mass**, Church

**No RE Classes or Children's Choir**

11:00 a.m. **Mass**, Church - INCENSE WILL BE USED

12:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt, FAC

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

**No Mass - St. Paul Reservation**

#### **Monday, March 28**

**No Mass**

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

5:30 p.m. Alpha Marriage Prep Class, Rm. 5, FAC

7:00 p.m. Joy of the Lord Prayer Group, Church

#### **Tuesday, March 29**

**No Mass**

9:30 a.m. Seven Sorrows Rosary, Church

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

3:00 p.m. Healing Ministry Class, Rm. 6, FAC

7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

#### **Wednesday, March 30**

**No Mass**

10:00 a.m. Steps on a Journey, Rm. 6, FAC

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

**No RCIA**

#### **Thursday, March 31**

**No Mass**

10:30 a.m. *Revelation*, Rm. 5, FAC

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, Gym

#### **Friday, April 1 - First Friday**

8:30 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Church

9:00 a.m. **Mass**, Church

9:45 a.m. Seven Sorrows Rosary, Church

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

#### **Saturday, April 2 - First Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Church

10:00 a.m. Benediction, **Mass**, Church

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Church

5:00 p.m. **Vigil Mass**, Church

#### **Sunday, April 3 - Divine Mercy Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Church

8:00 a.m. **Mass**, Church

9:30 a.m. RE Classes, FAC

10:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Church

10:15 a.m. Children's Choir, Rm 2

11:00 a.m. **Mass**, Church - INCENSE WILL BE USED

12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour, Room 5, FAC

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena, Church

4:30 p.m. First Confession, St. Paul

5:00 p.m. Faith Formation, St. Paul

5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, St. Paul

6:00 p.m. **Mass**, St. Paul, Swinomish Reservation

March 27, 2016

**Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Northern Deanery Meeting  
Saturday April 2, 2016**

The Northern Deanery of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) will hold their meeting at Immaculate Conception Church in Arlington, WA. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include lunch and a speaker. It will close about 2:00 p.m. A fee of \$5.00 is asked to cover the cost of the luncheon. All are welcome, so please come and meet others from our Northern Deanery parishes.



**Make Your Marriage a Priority this  
Lenten Season**

It's not too late to focus on something positive during Lent – making your marriage everything God intended it to be. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) can help you rediscover your spouse and move forward in a more positive and loving way. For confidential information about, or to register for our upcoming program beginning **April 8-10, 2016** call **360-671-6479** or visit our website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Iron Sharpens Iron  
Seattle Catholic Men's Conference  
Manhood in the Year of Mercy**

For Adult Men of All Ages  
April 23, 2016  
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
1121 228th Ave. SE Sammamish, WA 98075  
For more information, visit [SeattleMensConference.org](http://SeattleMensConference.org).



**Items of interest...**

The St. Mary Parish Office has several books available for your purchase:

**Be Healed**, by Dr. Bob Schuchts. The book is highly recommended by Fr. Straz, and by parishioners who have already purchased it. \$17.

Two books about Our Lady of Kibeho. Proceeds from the sale of these books go toward building a basilica.

- **Our Lady of Kibeho**, \$14.
- **If Only We Had Listened**, \$19.

**33 Days to Morning Glory**, larger print, expanded information. Be ready for the parish consecration to Mary! \$10

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad.  
Psalm 118: 24*

**Faith Formation & Liturgy**

**Religious Education News:**

On Sunday, March 27 (Easter), there will be no Religious Education classes or Children's Choir rehearsal.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

**Beginning Sunday, April 3:**

- Religious Education Classes will begin at **9:30 a.m.**
- Children's Choir Rehearsal will begin at **10:15 a.m.**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILDREN PROMPTLY AT THE END OF RE/CHILDRENS CHOIR AS THERE IS NOT CHILDCARE AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS.**

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS:**

**High School Youth Group**  
will meet Thursday, March 31.

For questions or further information, please contact Sarah Marks at [fform@stmaryanacortes.org](mailto:fform@stmaryanacortes.org) or call the Parish Office at 360-293-2101.

**BELLES OF ST. MARY**

Our **Spring Rummage Sale** is **April 21-23, 2016**. The small shed door is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to accept clean and gently used household items and clothing. Please hold larger items until the week of March 27th when those items can be directly put into the gym.

Thank you for your donations  
and making past sales very successful!



**SAVE THE DATE  
Immaculate Conception Regional School  
Annual Big Blue Auction  
Friday, April 22**

Through the years, the annual fundraiser provides the Immaculate Conception Regional School with needed funds for staff, students, and families. We greatly look forward to your participation for this year's auction!

For more information about the auction,  
Visit <http://icrsweb.org/support/auction>.

**St Mary Stewardship of Treasure  
March 19-20, 2016**

Offering Envelopes	\$4973
Loose Collection	\$799
Online Collection	\$495
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,267</b>
Weekly Income Budgeted	\$9,500

Good Leaders, Good Shepherds  
donations to date: \$9,870

## *Dear Parishioners,*

**Palm Sunday's Word: When we look at Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross, we look on the greatest Mystery. The God of all Creation, the Immortal, all-Perfect, un-Changing God who made the Universe and all it contains chose to enter into His own Creation and become one with it by taking on our human nature. And in taking on our death and sin, God, in a sense, has taken on 'change'. God's now has a human heart, with which to do this, to take on our sins and be pierced by a lance.**

**The root meaning of the word "compassion" is 'to suffer-with' someone. The root meaning of the word mercy, is to 'to be miserable in heart with' someone, to take on that person's misery. God's Heart, in Jesus, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, can now 'take on' all this and so the Unchanging now changes, and this change we call Divine Mercy.**

**Good Friday begins the Novena of the Divine Mercy. The Novena and the Chaplet Devotion of the Divine Mercy was given to the whole Church by Pope St. John Paul II, through the revelations of Jesus Christ given to a Polish Nun, St. Faustina Kowalska, shortly before the outbreak of WWII. Our Lord told St. Faustina to request of the Church the establishment of the Feast of the Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter, and to pray special prayers called the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, prayers that can be easily prayed on regular rosary beads in place of the Hail Mary's.**

**Please see the enclosed flyer on the Feast of the Divine Mercy and please consider praying the Novena of the Divine Mercy at home or at St. Mary's from Good Friday thru Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have a special Holy Hour of Divine Mercy on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3PM to conclude the Novena, which will start on Good Friday directly after the 3PM Stations of the Cross.**

### **Stewardship of Time for God: Eucharistic Adoration.**

At St. Mary's, we are especially focusing on **Time for God with Eucharistic Adoration** at the St. Peter Julian Eymard Chapel at St. Mary's. *Please prayerfully consider spending some time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration this year!*

### **Facilities Updates – Gym Wall & Fr. Auer Center Reconfiguration**

Please see the special announcements in your bulletin packet this weekend detailing a **final report on the status of the St. Mary's Gym Wall**. Now that the Gym Wall situation is closed, we can now focus our energies on some much needed repairs and upgrades to the rest of our facilities, most likely starting with the **FAC Kitchen** sometime in the coming year. Meanwhile, **we are in desperate need to reconfigure our use of space in the FAC** and *are already beginning to move furniture around this week* to accommodate some significant and desperately need changes to office and classroom space over the next few months. We know that while there will be some adjusting to go through, in the end I am confident that everyone will be happy to see we are better utilizing the amazing resources previous generations have left us for the spread of the Gospel here in Anacortes! ***If you'd like to help move stuff, please call Travis at the Office.***

### **NEW! Community of Mary – Family of the Gospel**

Some will remember that shortly after I arrived last July, the **Bishop of Assisi Italy, Bishop Domenico Sorrentino** made a brief visit to St. Mary's with a new community of Sisters he founded in Italy: **Sr. Benedetta Maria and Sr. Angela of the Ardent Disciples of Jesus Crucified**. The trio visited our Archdiocese for almost a month last summer, hosted by Fr. Ed White of **St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Renton**, with the **welcome of our Archbishop Peter Sartain**. Together this "Italian Contingent" presented to us the proposal of Bishop Sorrentino's family-based initiative, ***The Community of Mary – Family of the Gospel***. This is a small-faith community outlined by Bishop Sorrentino in his book *The Church as Family*, which has yet to be translated into English (hopefully soon by Ignatius Press).

The **Family of the Gospel** consists of groups of individuals, including families, singles and widowed/divorcees, meeting 2-4x a month to learn about *Consecration to Jesus through Mary* and to study the Gospel together, while sharing and supporting each other in daily life. Sr. Benedetta Maria conducts the first stage of formation via Skype from Italy. Currently there are 5 groups in our Archdiocese with the Blessing of Archbishop Sartain.

**Sr. Benedetta Maria will be in Anacortes on Easter Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> to meet (off campus) with those who are interested in entering into the formation program for the Family of the Gospel.** All are welcome. Those interested should **contact Heather Mack (360-679-20250 or Kelly Buyske (406-868-78020** for more info and to sign up.

*Fr. Straz*

**March 28 through April 2**

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena Continues

**Sunday, April 3—Divine Mercy Sunday**

7:30 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:00 a.m., **Mass**

9:45 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

3:00 p.m. Holy Hour of Mercy with sung Divine Mercy Chaplet. Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

5:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation, St. Paul

6:00 p.m. **Mass**, St. Paul

**Monday, April 4 - Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**

**What you give up for LENT changes LIVES**

**Turn your Lenten alms into HOPE**



**Bring your CRS Rice Bowl to St. Mary as soon as you can so we can contribute your donation. Thank you for your generosity!**

**Stewardship Reflection**

Acts 10: 34A, 37-43; Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3: 1-4; Jn 20: 1-9



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that "Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts,' the 'Solemnity of solemnities,' just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments.' The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to Him." (#1169).

It is difficult for us to fully comprehend the importance of this day and its meaning for us, its fulfillment of hope for us. We consider this to be the most important day on our Church calendar. If we have properly approached the Lenten period, this day comes at the end of a period of prayer and fasting and almsgiving. We should have been prepared to spiritually die with Christ, and to rise as He did on this day to the promise of new life both in this world and the next.

Christ has saved us, and that alone is reason for our joyous celebration. By receiving the Eucharist (communion) on this day, we make a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God.

Some are here today who may only come to church once a year, but this is the day to come to be sure. We welcome you with the love of Christ, and as good stewards, we invite you to become a more intimate part of our faith community, so that you, too, can realize that "God is good — all the time."

**"I Shall Not Want"**

**by Audrey Assad**

*From the love of my own comfort  
From the fear of having nothing  
From a life of worldly passions  
Deliver me O God*

*From the need to be understood  
From the need to be accepted  
From the fear of being lonely  
Deliver me O God  
Deliver me O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want*

*From the fear of serving others  
From the fear of death or trial  
From the fear of humility  
Deliver me O God  
Deliver me O God*

*And I shall not want, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want*

*No, I shall not want, I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want  
When I taste Your goodness I shall not want*

See a video of Audrey performing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5xEYgGr6ms>

**Life In the Spirit Seminar**

Learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in our Catholic walk!

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.: April 20 27; May 4, 11

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.: April 16, 23, 20; May 7

Location: St. Mary, Father Auer Center

**Safe Environment Class**

St. Mary will offer a Safe Environment Class on Saturday, April 16. If you volunteer in **any** capacity with minors or vulnerable adults, adult faith formation, serve as greeter/usher, sacristan, are new to the parish, or have not taken a class in over a year, you may be required to do so. Please call the office if you are uncertain of your certificate status, or have other questions about the Safe Environment Program. Call Ruth at 360-293-2101. To register for the class, visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

## Father Auer Center and St. Mary Parish Hall

*Hospitality is measured by the kindness we show one another.*



As the people of God, we are called to give welcome to our neighbor! Hospitality was modeled for us by the Good Samaritan who went out of his way to help the wounded man even though it was socially inappropriate to do so. Jesus asks us to be hospitable and welcoming; He yearns to be with us and to nourish us! As followers of Christ, and as stewards of what God has given to us at St. Mary, we are challenged to use those gifts to their utmost potential as we welcome our neighbor to enter our doors. Our Mother, the dwelling of the Lord, always has open arms and is ready to welcome us home.

In rising to the challenge to live our mission, staff at St. Mary recognized several pressing issues with regard to the use of the rooms and space in the Father Auer Center:

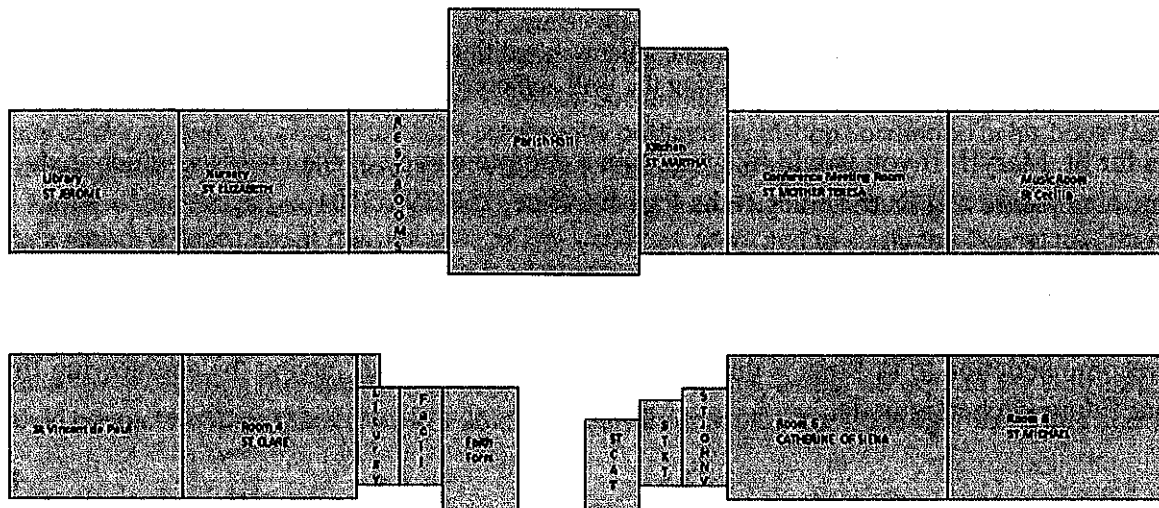
- Our St. Mary chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul struggles with a shortage of space for their food bank and a place to meet with clients.
- The PA for Liturgy and Music has been without an office for the past seven months.
- The gym remains empty and unused most days of the week.
- In order to provide an office for Father, we moved the conference table to the Library and the FAC has been without a dedicated conference meeting room—an essential space for conducting the business of the parish.
- Many of the rooms are used for storage of items that require inventory that may need to be archived or disposed of.

So the challenge has been met!! You will notice changes have begun to happen in the Father Auer Center:

- St. Vincent de Paul is set to move their operation into Room 2, and the north doors will be the entrance for SVDP clients.
- The office for our PA for Liturgy and Music, Joshua Van Winkle, will move to the current SVDP space.
- Tables and chairs have been moved out of Rooms 5 and 7 into our parish hall (gym).
- Room 5 is now our conference meeting room.
- The Music Room will be moving to Room 7.

The parish hall (gym) will become our regular parish gathering place; the doors to the hall will be open every day and you are welcome to drop in between 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Tables will be set up; conversational seating will be coming soon. A section of the parish hall will be set up for games. The coffee is on!

Please pray for the staff as we discern the needs of St. Mary. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome! Please contact Ruth Miller at 360-293-2101, or by email at [ruth.miller@stmaryanacortes.org](mailto:ruth.miller@stmaryanacortes.org)



## St. Mary Parish Gym Wall

Two weeks ago structural engineer Jack King, P.E., with Kingworks Consulting Engineers, completed an analysis of the Father Auer Center gym wall. As many of you are aware, significant cracks on the outside of the wall began forming in the time following the earthquake in 2001.

As the cracks became more evident over the intervening years the Pastoral Council and concerned parishioners expressed a desire to have an analysis completed.

### **Analysis/Findings:**

The impression formed during the observation was that the cracking was probably a result of corrosion on the steel columns or expansion and contraction of the masonry wall from temperature change.

Subsequent hand calculations of the member forces and deflections indicated that there may be a problem with the sizing of the steel columns so a full structural analysis of this wall has been performed. This finite element analysis took into account the stiffness of the system (resulting from the spans, connection types, and stiffness of the steel members,) and the design lateral out of plane loads (as determined by modern building codes) for wind and earthquakes. Earthquake forces governed slightly over the calculated design wind forces.

This analysis has confirmed that the steel members are generally proportioned adequately for the out of plane wall forces that are imposed on them. However, the deflections predicted by this analysis do seem to explain the observed cracking patterns, including the out of plane spalling present around the center column. It is our opinion that the cracks are most likely a result of out of plane loads that were induced during a wind storm or earthquake. The steel frame (beams and columns) deflected in a way that imparted high local stresses on the masonry material along each steel column. In the case of the side columns the high masonry stress occurred because the side columns are stiffer than the center column (due to their shorter vertical span). In the case of the center column, the high masonry stresses resulted from the higher flexibility (longer span) of this column which explains the tight crack along the top of the column. The spalling at the lower half of the column likely results from the deflected shape of this column (with its 28 foot span) being incompatible with the deflected shape of the wall with its 19.5 foot vertical span. Since the masonry material is stiff and brittle, cracks formed in these high stress locations to relieve the stresses. The cracks are aligned with the columns because the masonry material is thin nest where the columns were installed.

### **Recommendations:**

As was stated above, it is our opinion that the cracks resulted from deflection incompatibility between the brick wall and the steel columns and beams while subjected to lateral forces. Further, it is our opinion that the steel members are adequately proportioned to safely resist the loads from wind and earthquake (as determined by modern code requirements). Repairing the cracks is not necessary because the masonry wall is reinforced and we would expect the sections where the cracks have formed to behave in a similar manner to the surrounding intact masonry in an earthquake event. Even if new matching bricks could be obtained, repair of the cracks, by chipping out the mortar and replacing the bricks locally at the columns, would likely be expensive and impractical. Also, the same cracking could re-occur unless the existing steel members were stiffened (particularly the center column).

**It is our opinion that no action is required at this time.** The exterior surface of the cracks appears to have been well sealed with a silicone product. The silicone condition should be monitored, and it should be replaced if it degrades, to prevent water from entering the wall and corroding the reinforcing and steel members.

Great news for St. Mary!! If you would like to obtain a complete copy of the analysis, which includes the calculations, etc., please call Ruth Miller at the Parish Office, 360-293-2101.

The Annual Catholic Appeal rebate received during the 2014-2015 fiscal year was earmarked for the structural analysis and any needed repairs to the wall. The rebate received to date amounts to \$10,400. The Pastoral Council's recommendation to Fr Straz is that any amount remaining after paying the engineering firm be set aside for our future kitchen remodel.

# The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday!

How should we prepare for this great Feast of Mercy?



Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when **“all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened”**. (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

Jesus promised that **“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”**(Diary 699) He went on to say **“I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy.”** (Diary 1109)

We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy “Divine Mercy Sunday”. We want you to benefit fully from these promises, and we also want you to notify all of your family and friends about them too and urge them to return to the practice of their faith!

The Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested to be solemnly blessed and venerated on this day, will be on display in our church. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said **“I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish”**. (Diary 341, 48) Please take the time to visit with this Image of The Divine Mercy and venerate Jesus.

Jesus said to St. Faustina **“I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You”**. (Diary 327) **“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. ...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.”** (Diary 299)

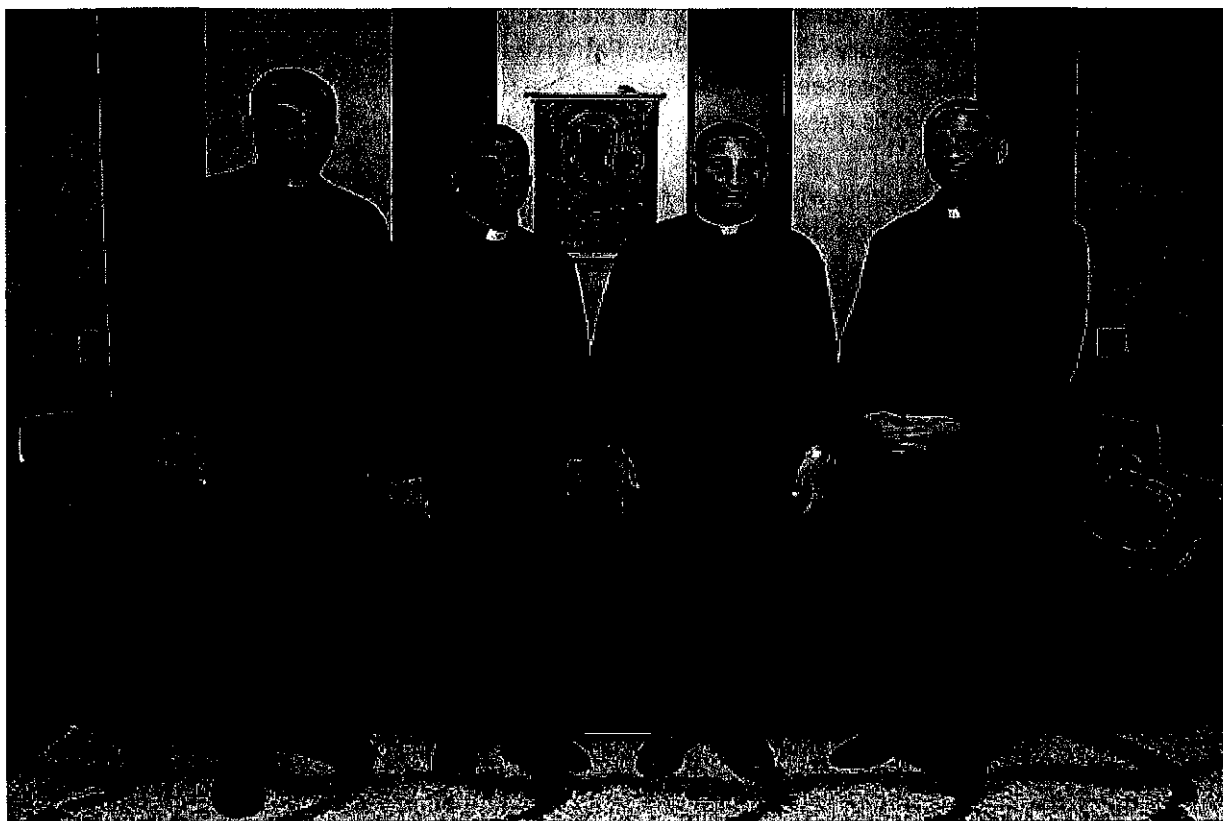
About the feastday “Divine Mercy Sunday”, Jesus said **“...tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy”**. (Diary 699)

Our Lord said **“When you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul...”** and **“Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy”** (1602) **Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is... only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest that I am making use of; open your soul in confession to Me, and I will fill it with My light.”** (1725)

It is required of all Catholics to confess their serious sins at least once every year. If you haven't yet met this obligation then take advantage of this outstanding opportunity to receive an outpouring of an ocean of graces that Jesus promises on this day. Those who have already confessed their sins should make room for others.

The Church allows for one to go to Confession for up to about 20 days, before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.

## These Seminarians are being ordained – in a refugee camp



Iraqi seminarians. Photo courtesy of Remi Momica, second from the left.

By Elise Harris – Catholic News Agency

Rome, Italy, Mar 18, 2016 / 03:00 pm ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- After their seminary in Qaraqosh was dissolved following a brutal ISIS attack in 2014, four Iraqi seminarians chose not to give up after being forced to flee, but to continue their path to the priesthood.

Now, a year and a half after the attack that uprooted them from their homes, the four men will be ordained deacons, and have chosen a church in an Erbil refugee camp for the March 19 ceremony. “People want hope, and when they see that there are four young people who will become deacons and after a few months they will be priests, that will give them hope and the power to stay,” Remi Marzina Momica told CNA March 17.

Momica is one of the four seminarians from the Syriac Catholic Church of Mosul who will be ordained Saturday. All of them formerly studied at St. Ephraim’s seminary in the mainly Christian city of Qaraqosh, which is now under the control of ISIS. The young seminarians were forced to flee the city when the militants attacked on Aug. 6, 2014, driving out inhabitants who didn’t meet their demands to convert to Islam, pay a hefty tax or face death.

Before being forced to leave Qaraqosh, Momica and his sister were among the victims wounded in a 2010 bombing of buses transporting mainly Christian college students from the Plains of Nineveh to the University of Mosul, where they were enrolled in classes. Since the Qaraqosh seminary has been closed following the 2014 attack, the four seminarians were sent to finish their studies at the Al-Sharfa Seminary in Harissa, Lebanon.



The only seminary left in Iraq providing formation for diocesan priests in the country is the Chaldean rite's St. Peter Patriarchal seminary for the Chaldean Patriarchate in Erbil. Archbishop Bashar Warda is the Chaldean Archbishop who oversees the Chaldean diocese of Erbil. After completing their studies in Lebanon, the four Syriac Catholic rite seminarians returned to Iraq for their ordination.

Momica, whose family fled to Erbil, where they are still renting a small house, said he and the other three seminarians told their bishop that they specifically wanted their ordination to take place in a refugee camp, "because we are refugees." "We want our people to know, we want to tell everyone that there are young people who will become priests," he said, explaining that the event will be a sign of hope for the Christians who are left.

Fr. George Jahola, the priest in charge of accompanying the four men until their deaconate ordination, told CNA that the church where the ordination will take place sits in a refugee camp in Ankawa, a suburb of Erbil. The large church welcomes refugees in for daily and Sunday Masses, he said, adding that the seminarians "chose this church specifically to demonstrate their closeness to the people who suffer." He said they invited "the entire Church" to participate in the ordination, including bishops, priests and laity from other rites.

Archbishop Yohanno Petros Moshe, Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Mosul, Kirkuk and Kurdistan, is the seminarians' bishop, and will be the one to ordain them. Other concelebrants will include bishops from other churches, including the Chaldean and Orthodox churches, he said, adding that in this sense, "it will become a communion around the altar, around Christ."

Fr. Jahola said 90 percent of the Syriac-Catholic faithful in the Erbil diocese are refugees, so seeing the ordination of four young men will give hope to the local Church. It will also give hope to the universal Church, he said, because "despite the difficulty, there are vocations, youth, who give themselves for the Church, to serve the people of God. This is important in our times."

Sharing his personal feelings on his ordination, Momica said he is both happy for the new step in his vocational life, but also sad that many of his family members won't be able to be there. "I am very happy to become a deacon, I am so happy! But I am so sad because I am so far away from my town, from my seminary in Qaraqosh, and we lost many people," he said.

The seminarian said that the thought of serving the Church fills him with joy, but that there is also a deep sadness "because there are many people who won't be there at the time of my ordination." While his immediate family is with him in Erbil, Momica's other relatives left after ISIS began their siege.

The seminarian, who currently works with refugees, said that he would like to stay in Erbil after his ordination so that he can be with his family and other members of his Church. "I want to stay here in Iraq and I want to know if there is anyone who can help us to stay, to speak with the governments outside to see if they can help us to stay here," he said.

With the future of Christianity in Iraq uncertain, there are many who want to stay, but don't see a clear solution in sight, he said. "Our people want to see what the future is here in Iraq for Christians. And...we don't know the future of Christians here in Iraq," Momica said, but added that despite the uncertainty, there are still people who are willing to give it a shot.

# Seminary of Christ the King Vocation Live-in

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon  
April 8 - 10, 2016

The Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC, is planning a weekend LIVE-IN for young men who are interested in the priesthood or the life of a religious brother, and want to see for themselves what seminary life is like. The Seminary of Christ the King has students in high school (Grades 9 - 12), in college (Arts I-IV), and in theology.

The LIVE-IN is open to anyone who is thinking of entering the seminary in the next few years.

The LIVE-IN provides an opportunity to spend two days at the Seminary and to become acquainted with other young men who have the priestly or religious vocation in mind.

Those attending should arrive any time Friday evening, preferably between seven and eight o'clock. Bring a **sleeping bag**, school clothes, and some old clothes for sports, a towel, etc., and your **high school transcript** or your last **report card**. Anyone planning to come should fill in the application form below and forward it to:

**Vocation Live-In**  
**Seminary of Christ the King**  
**PO Box 3310**  
**Mission BC V2V 4J5**

or the info may be phoned to 604-826-8715 or faxed to 604-826-8725 or e-mailed to: [rector\\_sck@yahoo.ca](mailto:rector_sck@yahoo.ca)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Priest you know best \_\_\_\_\_

The College LIVE-IN is for those in Grade 12 and for high school graduates. Those planning to attend should contact the Rector by phone or by email at [rector.majors@yahoo.ca](mailto:rector.majors@yahoo.ca). As space for the College LIVE-IN is limited, advance registration is required. Those attending should bring clothes appropriate for attending the liturgy, sportswear, towel and other personal items. No sleeping bag is needed. Plan to arrive around 7 pm on the Friday. Both high school and college programs will include interaction with priests, brothers and seminarians, daily Mass and prayer, recreational activities, sports, and some reflective reading. The suggested fee is \$25.

Future LIVE-INS: **July 8-10, 2016**