



SANCTUARY

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March 2006

Lord, prepare me to be a Sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.



Rev. Fr. Matthew Robbertz
Spiritual Director

Magnificat Charismatic Prayer Community
(A Covenanted Catholic Community)
Regina Mundi
Queensville, Ontario

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have accepted to be Spiritual Director of your community and I am happy to celebrate the sacraments with you when I can and be available for personal or group spiritual consultation. Since I cannot always leave my house, feel free to contact me at any time by phone (905-473-3864) and we can easily meet at my place, which is not far from Regina Mundi. We certainly had a great visit when a whole bunch of you came over to see me.

Most central in your Oratory is the image of the merciful Jesus revealed in the visit of St. Faustina on February 22, 1931. Our Lord has consigned to her the great mission to proclaim His message of mercy. "Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but to heal it, pressing it to my merciful Heart."

Now, St. Maria Faustina is known as "the Apostle of Divine Mercy" and is numbered by the theologians among the outstanding mystics of the Church. We are to be reminded of the sometimes forgotten truth about God's merciful love for us and to revive the spiritual lives of all sinners.

In the Devotion to the Divine Mercy, we are given six new forms which we can practice in the spirit of Christian trust and mercy. Here is a brief description of these six forms in Jesus' words and some comments:

1. The image of the Merciful Jesus.

You have that image in your chapel and the oratory. It was revealed in a vision. Jesus said: "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: *Jesus I Trust In You*. I want this image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy."

The two rays coming from the Heart are the distinctive features and Jesus explains: the pale ray stands for the water, which makes souls righteous (think of baptism, confession and the Holy Spirit).

The red ray stands for the Blood, which is the life of souls (think of the Eucharist, Our Lord's Passion and the new covenant with God in the Blood of Christ).

(over)

(Fr. Matthew Robbertz – Cont'd.)

Jesus says: "The image is to be a reminder of the demands of my mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works." So this image helps us to go to Jesus in trust of His infinite mercy and we ask the Lord with trust for many special graces live eternal salvation, progress in Christian perfection and a happy death.

2. The Feast of the Divine Mercy.

Jesus asked that the image would be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter and that this Sunday be the Feast of Mercy. The feast is especially for poor sinners. "I am giving them the last hope of salvation, that is, recourse to my mercy. Whoever approaches the Font of Life on this day, will be granted complete remission of sins and punishments." We celebrate this day and profit from it by a novena preparation and receiving the sacraments "No souls will be justified until it turns with confidence to my Mercy. Priests are to tell every one about my great and unfathomable Mercy."

3. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.

I presume that you know the chaplet. Dictated by Jesus as a prayer of atonement and for the appeasement of God's wrath. In this prayer we offer to God the Father the "Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity" of Jesus in atonement for the sins of ourselves, of loved ones and those of the whole world, appealing to the great Love that our Heavenly Father has for His Son and in Him for all human beings. This prayer, prayed with humility, perseverance, and in conformity with God's will, will obtain many graces, particularly the grace of conversion and a peaceful death. It is very powerful if it is said by the bedside of a dying person. Jesus said: "It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet, if what you ask is compatible with My Will."

4. The Hour of Mercy.

Jesus recommended that we honor the Hour of His death, every day at three o'clock. "In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking. It was the hour of grace for the whole world, mercy triumphed over justice." How do we pray at three o'clock? Immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be if only for a brief moment. Given and taken time and opportunity we could make the stations of the Cross, say the chaplet or step into the chapel for a moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

5. Spreading the Honor of the Divine Mercy.

Jesus said: "Souls who spread the Honor of My Mercy, I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them but the Merciful Saviour. We are to show mercy to our neighbour always and everywhere. Do not shrink from this or excuse or absolve yourself from this." The spreading does not require many words but always the Christian attitude of faith, trust in God and becoming more merciful. St. Faustina gave an excellent example of that.

6. Renewal of Spiritual and Religious life in the Church.

This devotion finds deep justification in Holy Scripture. It can bring us close to God as an individual but we can also share it in a community of people who live by the Gospel ideal of trust and mercy, proclaim it and practice it by life and words obtaining Divine Mercy for the world. We are such group and the Divine Mercy devotion is part of our spirituality.

Maybe this short overview is of help to freshen up our fervor and to practice it more faithfully.

In the Love of Jesus,

Fr. Matthew Robbertz



My dear Magnificat Family,

By the time this issue of Sanctuary and this letter reaches you, the 15 pilgrims to the Philippines would have returned. I am sure they are bubbling with stories of their pilgrimage. And if you have misgivings why you did not join, there is another chance for you. Watch out for announcement. I thank those who took this opportunity and hope others will have chance to experience the sacred places, the special people and events of this wonderful Philippines we call home however painfully struggling it still is.

I will arrive on the 27th of March, by God's grace, to be with you and move on with our Magnificat journey. My fears and apprehensions are all gone, assured as I am now by what I heard and learned. I look forward to be with you with excitement. There is a new "Regina" which metamorphosed in my absence. I know our family works together, with joy and enthusiasm, for the achievement of our vision. We still suffer from our heartaches. But they will not put us down. I know a certain hope sends surges of a new spirit to our tired bodies – and with the coming of spring, our hearts begin to beat with ardour. Holy Week beckons. The ME, our various celebrations of faith and love – a whole tantalizing prospect of working together that even now gives joy to my heart.

May I share with you this story?

"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The flower shop clerk's approach startled her. "I...I need an arrangement," stemmed Joanna.

"For Thanksgiving? Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer's favourite I call the Thanksgiving "Special" asked the shop clerk. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories," she continued. "Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this "Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Joanna blurted out. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong."

Joanna regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you." Just then the shop door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, "Hi, Barbara...let me get your order." She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly sniped; there were no flowers. "What's this in a box?" asked the clerk.

Joanna watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers! She waited for laughter, but neither woman laughed. "Yes, please", Barbara replied with an appreciative smile.

"You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest. And she left with her order.

"Uh," stammered Joanna, "that lady just left with, uh...she just left with no flowers! "Right, said the clerk," I cut off the flowers. That's the special. I call it the Thanksgiving Thorn Bouquet."

"Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that!" exclaimed Joanna.

"Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling much like you feel today," explained the clerk. "She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery." "That same year I had lost my husband," continued the clerk, "and for the first time in my life, had just spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel."

"So what did you do?" asked Joanna.

"I learned to be thankful for thorns," answered the clerk quietly. "I've always thanked God for the good things in my life and never questioned the good things that happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask question! It took time for me to learn that dark times are important. I have always enjoyed the 'flowers' of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted and from His consolation we learn to comfort others."

Joanna sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her. "I guess the truth is I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God."

Just then someone else walked in the shop, "Hey Phil!" shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man." My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving Special...12 thorny, long-stemmed stems!" laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator.

"Those are for your wife?" asked Joanna incredulously. "Do you mind my asking why she wants something that looks like that?"

"No...I'm glad you asked," Phil replied. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but with the Lord's grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) said to me she kept a base of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from "thorny" times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific "problem" and give thanks for what that problem taught us. "As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Joanna, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life," Joanna said. "It's all too...fresh."

"Well," the clerk replied carefully, "my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don't resent the thorns."

Tears rolled down Joanna's cheeks. For the first time she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please," she managed to choke out.

"I hoped you would," said the clerk gently. "I'll have them ready in a minute."

"Thank you. What do I owe you?"

"Nothing. Nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me."

The clerk smiled and handed a card to Joanna. "I'll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you would like to read it first." It read:

My God, I have never thanked You for my thorns. I have thanked You a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear, teach me the value of my thorns. Show that I have climbed closer to You along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of Your rainbow look much more brilliant.

Praise Him for your roses; thank him for your thorns!"

Love and prayers,



Fr. Teo Rustia

VISION STATEMENT

We are a community of Catholic families called by our faith to make together, as one family, the pilgrimage of hope to the fullness of a life of love shared with the Triune God.

We make this pilgrimage open and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit in union with the Church, guided by the Catholic Hierarchy.

We look to the Holy Family of Nazareth as our inspiration and model in this pilgrimage.

We acknowledge the love of one another in, through and with Christ as the bond empowering us to be built up as a community of Jesus Christ.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT
CLASS #31**

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday
May 5, 6 & 7, 2006**

**To register contact: Ariel & Linda Antonio
Tel #: 905-568-3905**

Or

Email: albantonio@sympatico.ca

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE OUR LADY OF
THE SNOWS, ILLINOIS**

July 6 – 9

Departure: Thursday night from Regina Mundi

For more info contact: Ariel & Linda Antonio

Tel #: 905-568-3905

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Email: albantonio@sympatico.ca

VALENTINE'S PARTY A FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



Yes, indeed! It was a fun-filled fundraising success only because all the ministries including the MagYouth, the Apostles & the Daughters of the King supported it. "United, we stand; devided, we fall" as the saying goes. With undying gratitude & on behalf of the Temporalities Ministry, we would like to give praise to the Lord for the following special members who went out of their way in making this fund raising a success: Sis Bernadette, Sis Linda & Bro Ariel Antonio for finding & taking care of the venue in such a very short notice; for shopping together with Sis Irene & Bro Reggie delos Reyes for the decorations; the very talented –new found interior decorator of Magnificat who is none other than our very own Bro Marc Cusi, assisted by his lovely Sis/Wife Luisa, Bro Guimoy/Sis Nora Puyo, Sis Clarita Angeles (ME 10), Bro Obet Reyes, Bro Reggie and again by Sis Linda/Bro Ariel

(Cont'd): decorated the hall " very professionally"; Bro Obet, the DJ, who never fails to get everybody dancing on the dance floor, even the youth; Sis Maura Fermin (ME 2) who donated 2 dozen Roses; those who brought or sent door prizes like Sis Rose Ylagan (ME2) & most specially Sis Irene/Bro Reggie who donates several door prizes everytime; those who brought in extra desserts like Sis Diana for the Turons, Sis Helen Pag-ong & Sis Lita Malixi for the Bibingka(?) & others I can't remember right now; & last but not the least **Sis Anna, Aimee, Sis Josie & Bro Larry Estrabillo** for the impossible task of feeding around 200 people to their hearts content with a very meager budget of about a fourth(1/4)- to a third (1/3) of what it would normally cost! All the work that came with it (from the shopping for the best buys, to preparation, to hauling from Hamilton to Etobicoke and to its presentation) was given with much love!



We also would like to thank everybody who came especially those Magnificat members whom we have not seen for a while, Bro Percy/Sis Clarita Carreon, Bro Osmond/Sis Clarita Angeles, Sis Malou Avila (ME 2), ME 29 (seen on picture immediately to the right) with the exception of Bro Conrad/Sis Barbara Brunka who never fail to be present in all our fundraising activities (seen having fun on the bottom-right picture on the previous page). We hope we'll see you all mor often from now on.



Dear Magnificat Youth:

I don't think I can conjure up the right words to describe how amazing this community has touched me; spiritually and emotionally. It's approaching the 2 year mark for me ever since I was introduced to such a unique and unpredictable new chapter in my life and I truly see myself in this exact position 5 even 10 years later. Many probably wonder why I do what I do, which is serving God. The reason why I do this is because it makes me feel alive and that much more closer to Him. Not only are you affecting and touching the lives of people of all ages but you are especially touching and affecting the world around you. Serving in Magnificat Youth does not stop at our monthly assemblies or meetings but it goes beyond the borders of this country and all the way pass the Pacific to the people of the Philippines. There is nothing that can make a person feel more alive than to know they have helped a person not only emotionally and spiritually but also physically. I must say that my biggest accomplishment in life (by far) was serving at Camp Sanctify. The reason behind why this camp has been a huge part of my life is because even days or months after the camp was over, if not all, many wanted to get to know Our Lord Jesus Christ in ways through song, teachings and talks, that we hold for them monthly. We start at the camp to get everyone comfortable and familiarized with one another. We go through 5 talks in two days where each day it includes fun activities and good down time for your children to really get to know each other and communicate with the service team. The food that is served is not only a 5 star meal but also is blessed by some of participants themselves. In other words, we try to get everyone involved and excited about the weekend so they feel welcomed and wanted by one another. Through the years we have not only become a community that is continually growing but also a family that never stops loving each other. As a family and community, we have learned to Let go and Let God be in our lives for the rest of our days. My life changed when I was forced to attend my first camp by my parents, and this Core and family of Magnificat Youth for Christ wants nothing more than to be a part of that change in someone else's life. We encourage parents of this family to be that force that change in your child's life. With that being said, *May God be forever praised!*

Sincerely,
Aimee Estrabillo - Household Head

Cast your Cares on Him, who cares for us.1 Peter 5:7

It is always a challenge to remain peaceful, especially true on top of the usual demands of our life - work, housework, shopping, visiting, babysitting etc. Every minute counts. How tempting to skip our time with the Lord in prayer. True peace is rooted in our trust in a loving God. When we put the concerns of our lives in the Lord's hands and trust that He will help and strengthen us, we will know peace. We will be able to discern what God is calling us to do and trust that He will see us through as we obey Him. Jesus explained this principle when He described the wise man who built his house on a rock (Matthew 7:24-27). This man remain peaceful in the face of floods and wind because his foundations were secure. *With the Lord supporting what can topple us?*

Are you feeling anxious? Ask the Lord to help you surrender your life to Him. Cast your cares on Him who cares for us. This act of surrender maybe required over and over again everytime we see ourselves getting worried. Everytime we surrender our life to the Lord and throw ourselves into His arms, we will find our peace and confidence growing - because God is becoming our Rock.

As we prepare for Lent, may the love of Christ in us be our Rock and Salvation and keep us ever close to His Heart, the place of perfect rest and peace.

God Bless,
Bro. Larry/Sis. Josie Estrabillo

Other Feast Days Celebrated for the months of March & April

March

Mar. 1 – Ash Wednesday
 Mar. 3 – First Friday – Devotion to the Sacred Heart
 Mar. 4 – First Saturday – Devotion to the Our Lady
 Mar. 5 – 1st Sunday of Lent
 Mar. 7 – Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
 Mar. 8 – St. John of God
 Mar. 9 – St. Frances of Rome
 Mar. 12 – 2nd Sunday of Lent
 Mar. 17 – St. Patrick
 Mar. 18 – St. Cyril of Jerusalem
 Mar. 19 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
 Mar. 20 – St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Mar. 23 – St. Toribio de Mogrovejo
 Mar. 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord
 Mar. 26 – 4th Sunday of Lent

April

Apr. 1 – First Saturday – Devotion to Our Lady
 Apr. 2 – 5th Sunday of Lent
 Apr. 4 – St. Isidore
 Apr. 5 – St. Vincent Ferrer
 Apr. 7 – St. John Baptist de la Salle
 Apr. 8 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
 Apr. 10 – Monday of Holy Week
 Apr. 11 – Tuesday of the Holy Week
 Apr. 12 – Wednesday of the Holy Week
 Apr. 13 – HOLY THURSDAY
 Apr. 14 – GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
 Apr. 15 – HOLY SATURDAY
 Apr. 16 – EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION
 OF THE LORD
 Apr. 23 – 2nd Sunday of Easter
 Apr. 23 – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
 Apr. 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
 Apr. 25 – St. Mark
 Apr. 26 – Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Apr. 28 – Sts. Peter Chanel and Louis Mary de Monfort
 Apr. 29 – St. Catherine of Siena
 Apr. 30 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

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Directions:

404 North exit Greenlane (turn right), left on Woodbine Ave. first traffic light – right on Mount Albert Rd. Then left on Warden Ave.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- Mar. 4 (Sat) – 9:00 a.m. Seminar on Discerning: sponsored by the North Zone of the ATCR
St. Joan of Arc High School Cafeteria
120 McNaughton Rd.
Maple, City of Vaughan
- Mar. 4 (Sat) – 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy/Prayer Meeting
- Mar. 11 (Sat) – 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy/Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. MASS (Anticipated Sunday Mass)
- Mar. 18 (Sat) – 11:00 COE MEETING
2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy/Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. MASS (Anticipated Sunday Mass)
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. COMMUNITY VIGIL
- Mar. 25 (Sat) - 2:30 p.m. – Holy Rosary, Devotion to the 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy/Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. MASS (Anticipated Sunday
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. DAUGHTERS OF THE KING VIGIL
- Mar. 27 (Mon) – ARRIVAL OF FR. TEO RUSTIA
Mar. 29 (Wed) - 7:30 P.M. – HEALING SERVICE, VANIER HALL
- Apr. 1 (Sat) - 11:00 A.M. COE MEETING (Magnificat House)
2:30 P.M. – Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Devotion, prayer meeting
4:00 P.M. – Anticipated HOLY MASS
6:00 – 9:00 P.M. – Community Vigil
- Apr. 5 (Wed) - 7:30 P.M. – HEALING SERVICE, VANIER HALL
- Apr. 8 (Sat.) LENTEN RECOLLECTION (COMMUNITY) – VANIER HALL, REGINA MUNDI - 2:00 P.M. Lenten Recollection
3:00 p.m. – Divine Mercy
4:00 p.m. – Holy Mass - PALM SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. – HOLY HOUR
- Apr. 12 (Wed) - 7:30 P.M. – HEALING SERVICE, VANIER HALL
- Apr. 14 – Good Friday – Station of the Cross & Good Friday Service
Apr. 15 – Holy Saturday
2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Recollection with Dr. Tamayo
8:00 p.m. – EASTER VIGIL
- Apr. 22 (Sat.) - RECOLLECTION FOR COVENANTED MEMBERS
Apr. 23 (Sun.) - FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY
(c/o Sis. Ophie/Bro. Paul – with renewal of covenant)
- Apr. 26 (Wed.) 7:30 P.M. – HEALING SERVICE, VANIER HALL,
- Apr. 28, 29, 30 - MagYOUTH RETREAT (c/o Youth Ministry)
(Bro. Ernie/Sis Nini Guinto and Bro. Larry/Sis. Josie Estrabillo)



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SANCTUARY

MAGNIFICAT CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
(A Covenanted Catholic Community)

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