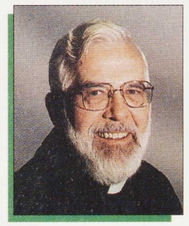
What Can I Do?

I will go to my Father!

What can I do in this world so torn apart by strife and division, with so many running after pleasure and power?



Fr. George Kosicki, CSB

What can I do in my own life that is filled with anxieties from personal and family problems, arising from divisions and differences with others? What can I do when my world seems to be falling apart around me?

I can do what the prodigal son did when he realized the condition of his own soul and that of the world around him. "I shall get up and go to my father" (Lk 15:18), he said. And we, too, can get up and go to our Father.

Who is this Father who can deliver us from our predicament? He is "God, who is rich in mercy, [the One] Jesus Christ has revealed to us as Father," Pope John Paul II tells us in the opening lines of his encyclical ***Rich in Mercy***.

"The reason for [the Church's] existence is, in fact, to reveal God, that Father who allows us to 'see' Him in Christ" (*RIM*, #15), says the pope as he concludes his encyclical.

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the Garden of Gethsemane and cry from the heart:

> Abba, dearest Father! Your will be done. Have mercy on me and on the whole world.

Every day, with the Lord Jesus, we can pray to His Father and our Father: "Your will be done. Your kingdom come. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

> *"What can I do when my world seems to be falling apart around me?"*

As Jesus forgave His persecutors from the cross, we can forgive those who have harmed us. We can let go of any grudges, any bitterness or resentment.

Listen to the powerful words of the pope on Mercy Sunday 1995 about our need to *experience* the Father's tender-hearted m
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in Christ touches our lives, we can learn to be merciful as the Father is merciful (see Lk 6:36).

You and I can also resolve to go to our Father by making a good confession this Lent in preparation for Easter and Mercy Sunday.

Then, as we ourselves receive mercy, we can make the Novena to The Divine Mercy, consciously imploring mercy on souls in need that they, too, may get up and go to our Father's house through Jesus, The Divine Mercy. As Jesus told Blessed Faustina:

> **On each day** [of the Novena] **you will bring to My Heart a different group of souls, and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy, and I will bring all these souls into the house of My Father. You will do this in this life and in the next. I will deny nothing to any soul whom you will bring to the fount of My mercy. On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My bitter Passion, for graces for these souls** (*Diary*, 1209).

over Italy and other countries, a Mercy Sunday Mass will be held at the Vatican. At press time, the name of the main celebrant had not been confirmed. In 1995, Pope

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then to Route 102 east.

If you are arriving from north of the **Mass Pike** and traveling south on Route 7, follow signs to Route 102 east.

If you are arriving from south of the **Mass Pike,** take Route 7 north from Connecticut.

If you are arriving from the east via the **Mass Pike,** take exit 2 (Lee) and ask for printed directions when you get to the toll booth.

Note: Designated parking areas will be indicated by signs, and parking coordinators will be available to direct you to a parking location.

...buses will be allowed into the parking areas without a 1999 parking permit.

Volunteers

It takes hundreds of dedicated volunteers working together to help make Mercy Sunday a grace-filled experience. We need people for a variety of tasks — everything from directing traffic

"I'm truly in awe!"

There's nothing more exciting than hearing God call your name, responding to that call, and then watching Him go to work.

At first, I felt called to the married life and a secular profession. I spent 15 years working as a technician and plant maintenance supervisor. I also served in Vietnam. Then, in 1979, my wife died in her sixth month of pregnancy.

Over the next 10 years, God nurtured my vocation by drawing me closer to Himself, nourishing me through the sacramental life of the Church. I began attending Mass every day, so I could experience more of Christ in my life.

Then, in 1987, my sister and I made our first pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. We happened to be in the Shrine for the three o'clock prayer, and I felt a strong sense of belonging when I heard the words of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which I already prayed regularly.

This experience helped me to realize all the more the unfolding of God's plan in my life. I began to feel a spiritual bond with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

The following spring, I returned to Eden Hill for Mercy Sunday. Before leaving, I spoke with the Provincial Superior about my desire to become a Marian. The Lord worked to ensure that everything fell into place.

"During my first Mass, I found myself in awe of the Lord Jesus at the moment of Consecration," says the newly ordained Fr. Dan Papineau, MIC.

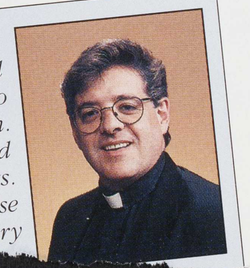
In fact, when I was ordained on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, 1998, I felt like I'd been espoused to Christ as never before.

In my role as priest, I've found Christ and I've found myself. I delight, with profound humility, in serving God's people *in persona Christi*. I'm truly in awe of this call, and yet I have a great peace about it. I know that Christ has called me to His priesthood as a Marian of the Immaculate Conception.

— Fr. Dan Papineau, MIC

Dear Marian Friends,

Our lives are a wonderful gift from God, and what we do with them is our gift to Him. You, my friend, are graced by God with special talents. ...of All desires to use ...His glory



Yes, I would like to receive free information about life as a Marian of the Immaculate Conception.

Write to: **Fr. David Lord, MIC, Vocation Director**
Marians of the Immaculate Conception
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Washington, D.C. 20017

E-mail: **vocation@marian.org**

...toll free: **1-877-261-8806**

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