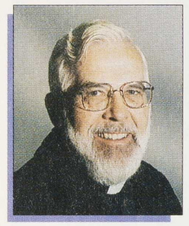
What Can I Do?

Say "yes" to God's love

I've noticed how impatient I can get with God.

I desire to have His love at work within me, transforming me. But I don't know how to go about it and I quickly get frustrated.



Fr. George Kosicki, CSB

The problem is: when I let my impatience get in the way, I forget that God is God and His ways are not my ways. He is beyond our questions of how, when, and where. God is beyond our limitations of space and time, matter and gravity.

You and I need to consider how God's love really does work in us, so we can better understand His ways and grow in patience.

First, and most simply, we need to realize, *"God is Love!"* (1 Jn 4:8). So, we need to let Him be God and love us. In fact, God is always loving us. It's His nature. And He takes the initiative: "Love consists in this; not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us" (1 Jn 4:10).

Second, this God who is Love is always *present*. The love of God is present in us by the gift of the Holy Spirit who has been poured into our hearts at Baptism. So we can be present in silent, loving adoration to the One who is always present to us.

Third, God's love is always at *work*. Whether we feel it or not, His love is at work in the deep, dark caverns of our hearts, cleaning up and reaming out all the obstacles to His presence. He is making space for the gift of Himself. We need to ask Him, then, to continue His work of love in us as He makes more space for Himself.

Fourth — and perhaps most importantly for us — *God waits for us to open our hearts ever wider to Him.* What the Lord asks of us is a bit of good will and permission for Him to work in our hearts. He says to you and me, "Here I stand, knocking at the door. If anyone hears Me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with Me" (Rev 3:20).

> *"God waits for us to open our hearts ever wider to Him."*

Sister Faustina — whose canonization is expected on Mercy Sunday — allowed the Lord's love to work in her heart as she grew in greater trust and a deeper desire for Him. So, too, we can invite Jesus ever more fully into our hearts, asking Him to remove any obstacles to His love.

"O my Jesus, how easy it is to become holy; all that is needed is a bit of good will," writes Sister Faustina. "If Jesus sees this little bit of good will in the soul, He hurries to give Himself to the soul, and nothing can stop Him, neither shortcomings or falls — absolutely nothing" (*Diary*, 291).

If we muster only a "flicker of good will, the mercy of God will accomplish the rest" (see *Diary*, 1486). We can make a simple offering of ourselves or a gesture expressing our good will. Then, the Lord will take us deeper and further into His love.

Even Sister Faustina had to probe her soul more deeply when the Lord told her that there was something she still had not offered Him. Finally, she cried out, "Jesus, tell me what it is, and I will give it to You at once with a generous heart."

Jesus replied with kindness, "Daughter, give Me your misery, because it is your exclusive property."

"At that moment, a ray of light illumined my soul," writes Sister Faustina, "and I saw the whole abyss of my misery. In that same moment, I nestled close to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with so much trust that even if I had the sins of all the damned weighing on my conscience, I would not have doubted God's mercy" (*Diary*, 1318).

So, what can I do?

The Lord is waiting for me to give Him everything — my impatience, my frustration, all of my misery.

I can say with all of my being, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus! Do your work of love. Root out all of my misery."

"Make my heart like Yours. Make it ever true."

Fr. George Kosicki, CSB, is one of the best-known authors and speakers on Divine Mercy. He lives in solitude in upper Michigan with the community of Companions of Christ the Lamb.

LESLIE KOSSOFF

"These young men who are pursuing a religious vocation have found a home with the Marians of my province," says Fr. David.

Come home to the Marians

It's wonderful to come home. And there's no feeling in the world like the comfort of being with family and friends. The Marians of the Immaculate Conception are family.

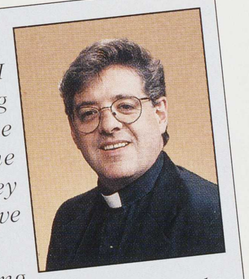
Our small community is a close-knit group with a brotherhood rooted in Jesus and Mary. As soon as I discovered this amazing congregation of priests and brothers — devoted to Mary Immaculate and committed to spreading the message and devotion of Jesus Christ, The Divine Mercy — I knew I had come home.

Each and every moment of our Congregation's history is important to me. We've just crossed the threshold of the new millennium, a threshold of hope in the bosom of the Church, our Mother, and our Home. We are growing in numbers and in spirit. Evidence of that is the number of young men pursuing vocations in our own province.

Like them, you, too, might hear the still, small voice of Our Lord calling you to take a bold step and make your home in the heart of the Church with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

— Fr. David Lord, MIC

Dear Marian Friends,



I'm always inspired when I spend time with the young men in my own province who have decided to come home to the Marians. They are filled with zeal to serve Christ and the Church.

If you, too, are a young man looking for a home in the heart of the Church, I'd love to talk with you about attending a "Come & See Weekend" at our house in Steubenville, OH, on May 12-14.

Simply check the box indicated on the coupon at right, and then return it to me today.

In Mary Immaculate,

Fr. David, MIC

Fr. David

❑ **Yes,** please send me free information about life as a Marian priest or brother.

❑ **Also,** please send me information about your "Come and See Weekends."

Write to: **Fr. David Lord, MIC, Vocation Director**
Marians of the Immaculate Conception
515 Belleview Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952

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

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

PRO CHRISTO ET ECCLESIA

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