Father Joseph Writes

Dear Marian Associates:

During these summer months we will be celebrating two great feasts of Our Blessed Lady: The Assumption on August 15th and the Nativity of Mary on September 8th. All members of the Association of Marian Helpers may gain a plenary indulgence on these days, under the usual conditions. Furthermore, on both feasts a special Mass is offered for all members of the Association. Also, a novena of Masses will be celebrated during August in honor of the Assumption of Mary and during July in honor of Saint Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin. If you wish to have your intentions included in either of these novenas, or both, please let us know. Finally, we extend a sincere and wholehearted invitation to all of our Marian Helpers to visit us here at the shrine of the Mercy of God. Enjoy the charm and beauty of summer in the Berkshire Hills and spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer.

OUR LADY. The feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into heaven is of ancient origin. It goes back to the early stages of Christianity — probably to Jerusalem itself — even though it was proclaimed as a dogma of faith only in recent times. It was the late Pius XII who made the proclamation on November 1, 1950. The essential passage of the Holy Father's proclamation reads: *"We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory."*

HELP NEEDED! The Monks of Adoration, a new Religious Community founded in 1984, and dedicated to leading a monastic, contemplative life centered on the Most Blessed Sacrament, are appealing for financial assistance for their St. Joseph Building Project.

They wish to build a chapel and small monastery in Barre, Massachusetts on 12 acres of land which was donated to them. They have been encouraged in their foundation by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Augustine Cardinal Mayer, O.S.B., of Rome and their local Ordinary, Bishop Timothy Harrington of Worcester, Mass. Their life of adoration is offered in a spirit of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anyone wishing to help with a donation may write directly to Bro. Craig Driscoll, The Monks of Adoration, North Main Street, Petersham, Mass. 01366.

MARIAN YEAR OBSERVANCE. *"Loving mother of the Redeemer, Gate of Heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again!"*

The words of this ancient hymn give us the basic message of our Holy Father's encyclical, *Mother of the Redeemer,* which he proclaimed at the opening of the Marian Year. The year will close on the feast of the Assumption of Mary, August 15th. Our closing liturgical celebration here on Eden Hill, at the Shrine of Mercy, will be held on August 7th, with His Excellency Bishop Joseph Maguire of Springfield, Mass. officiating. It will be part of the Diocesan closing of the Marian Year. We cordially invite our Marian Helpers, particularly those in this area, to join us in publicly expressing our love of the Mother of God and in begging Her Maternal intercession for true peace among all nations and peoples of the world.

OLD GOLD. Once again we make an appeal to you, our readers, to send us any old gold or silver that you may have around the house. We make good use of it, helping out the missions in South America, Africa, Asia. You would be surprised at the number of appeals we receive from missionaries around the world begging for assistance of various sorts. An elderly priest from Uganda, Africa, has been staying with us here in Stockbridge for the past few months while undergoing medical treatment. The needs of his parish in Uganda are tremendous because of the poverty of the people. Our own Marian Missions in Brazil have just made an urgent request for an annual financial assistance of 40 thousand dollars to meet their minimum requirements. Any help that our members can give in this regard will be greatly appreciated. I assure you, the missionaries and their faithful will remember you dearly in their prayers. Above all, please pray for the missions, for "Unless the Lord build the house, they who build labor in vain."

PILGRIMAGES: Our annual pilgrimage to Poland will leave on August 7th. Reservations are still being accepted. The pilgrimage to the Holy Land, scheduled for October, has been cancelled because of the chaotic and uncertain conditions there. In its stead a pilgrimage to Italy, Greece and Turkey is being substituted. The dates are October 14th to 25th. It will include the 10th anniversary celebration of Pope John Paul II's pontificate in Rome on October 18th and a 3-day cruise of the Greek Isles and Turkey. Reservations are still available.

MY DEAR ASSOCIATES! I realize that often in this open letter to you I sound too much like a beggar! My only consolation is that I am not begging for myself, but for others. It also keeps me humble and keenly aware of how much we Marians are indebted to you, and dependent upon you, the members of the Association of Marian Helpers. May our Merciful Lord, in His infinite goodness, bless you and your families abundantly, and may His Virgin Mother keep all of you ever close to Her Maternal Heart. Be assured of my rembrance of you at daily Mass.

Devotedly in Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Joseph M.I.C.

Director, Association of Marian Helpers

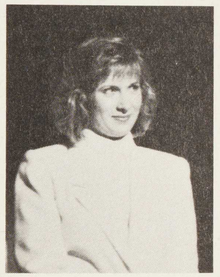
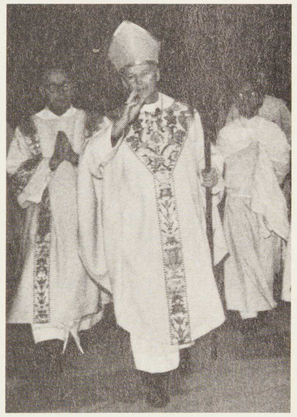
BOB DIGAN PHOTO

East Coast Premiere

Almost 8,000 Marian Helpers and others from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts turned out on April 19, 1988 for the East Coast premiere of *Divine Mercy — No Escape* at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The two showings had a touch of show biz in the Hollywood manner: audience enthusiasm, on-stage personalities, press interview and an organ concert preceding the movie. Introduced to the audience by Fr. Richard Drabik, M.I.C., Provincial Superior of the Marians, were: America's first lady of the theater, Helen Hayes, narrator of the film; Melanie Metcalf, who plays Sister Faustina; and director Hermann Tauchert.

After the midday showing, close to 3,000 proceeded to St. Patrick's Cathedral for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark and many clergy. The inspired standing-room-only congregation brought the spirit of the movie to the Liturgy. Framed images of the Merciful Savior were presented to Archbishop McCarrick and to the rector of the Cathedral.

We Marians feel excited and grateful that God has entrusted us to be special promoters of His mercy. We thank all who attended the premiere and all who helped make the undertaking possible. May the message spread far and wide.

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