

Divine Mercy Sunday

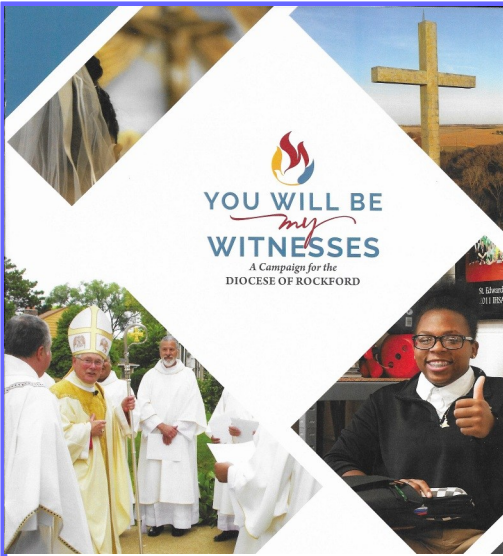
April 12, 2026



“Recognition is the sweetest grace of the New Testament.” — Bishop Daniel Flores

Let us spend this Easter Season recognizing Christ in one another!

You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign



Fr. Randy is still seeking **volunteers** to help with **Bishop Malloy's Capital Campaign**. Participation is always **the key** to **tithing** and raising funds to help run our **Parishes**. The barometer of a **'healthy Church'** is the percentage of how many families contribute — it should be 100% — every family contributing — everyone coming to **Mass** on Sunday, but the **80/20 rule** of our fallen world takes place (80% of the monies are contributed by only 20% of the people). **Volunteers** are desperately needed, because **tithing statistics** show that families give and are more generous when asked by a fellow parishioner; rather than, their **priest**. So, if you could **volunteers**—it would go well with our **Campaign efforts**. That being said, there is a

Volunteer Orientation and Training meeting this coming **Tuesday, April 14th**. It will take place from **6:30pm—8:30pm** in **the Hall in Sublette**. **Steve Furuta** (our consultant from the **Steier group**) will take the anxiety out of being a **volunteer**—as he shows us how **the work** we are doing is driven by the Holy Spirit to make our **Parishes** successful in our **quest for holiness**.

From the Gusset

I had never been lied to by **a nun** before or since (as far as I know); and so, the first and only time I have been lied to by **a nun** was on my **pilgrimage** to **Poland** the **Christmas** of 2004. My best friend, now **Fr. John Rozembajgier** from **the Diocese of Metuchen** in New Jersey had just been ordained **a Deacon**, and my other best friend, **Fr. Karl Bissinger** from **the Diocese of Fall River** in Massachusetts and I were just **3rd year Theologians** – when we flew to **Poland** for the **Christmas** break. **The North American College** always gave her **seminarians** the boot after the **Christmas eve** Mass with **Pope John Paul II**, but for the **Christmas** of 2004 – we actually celebrated the **Christmas Masses** at **St. Mary's Cathedral** in downtown Krakow. **Deacon John** and I were explicitly told by a **Sister of Divine Mercy** that the image in the convent of the **Divine Mercy Sisters** in the **Lagiewniki district** of Krakow was the original image that **Sister Faustina Kowalska** had directed an artist to paint based on her visions of the Lord. You can imagine my **surprise** then, when I went to **Daniel diSilva's** talk at **St. Mary's Church** in Byron last Monday and was told that **the original Divine Mercy Image** is above the main altar



The image of Divine Mercy that Fr. Rozembajgier and I were told was the original.

of **the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy** in **Vilnius, Lithuania**. Evidently **Sister Maria Faustina of the Holy Eucharist** was in three different Convents: Warsaw, Plock, and **Vilnius** – the latter **convent** was at the time under the control of **Poland**, but today is a part of **Lithuania**. Sister's Spiritual Director, **Fr. Michal Sopocko**, posed as Jesus for the painting, which was done by

Eugene Kazimirowski. It turns out that the **Divine Mercy Jesus** is actually celebrating **the Mass** for us and **pouring out** His **Divine Mercy** upon us in the rays of **red** and **pale**. The reason that the rays do not appear to reach to the bottom of the painting in the front of our Lord (the rays of **red** and **pale** color do stretch to the bottom of the painting behind our Lord) is because **the rays of mercy** are being **poured into** you and I and everyone who celebrates **the Holy Catholic Mass!** Just when you think that you might have learned all there is to know about our **Catholic Faith** – something like this happens (the talk by **diSilva**), and once again God proves that His **love** is everlasting and His **mercy** is boundless; and we can only **utter in awe** the words of **St. Thomas** on that first **Divine Mercy Sunday** so many years ago: **my Lord and my God! Happy Easter!!!**

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy

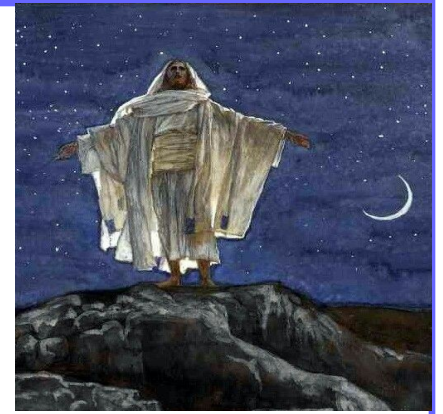
- the eyes of our Lord are downward cast, because Jesus is looking down from the height of the Cross upon us poor sinners
- **Divine Mercy Jesus wears an alb and cincture the garments that the priest wore for Mass in the 1930's, when Sister Faustina had her visions**
- **God the Father is imaged in the painting by the horns of light on our Lords's head, God the Son is illustrated by the hands of our Lord blessing us and opening up the fold in His garment above His Sacred Heart, God the Holy Spirit is shown by the rays of red and pale color, you and I are in the image as well—absorbing the rays as we kneel before the Lord in the Holy Mass**



JESUS, I trust in YOU

The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci

In those days (Jesus) departed to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, He called His disciples to Himself, and from them He chose Twelve, whom He also names Apostles: Simon, whom He named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (Luke 6:12-16)



Whenever it comes to an interaction between Jesus and one of **the Twelve** – I like to use **St. Jerome's** paradigm of looking at the Apostles as *"the best friends"* of Jesus Christ! To think that the Second Person of the Trinity was considering (for quite some time) who His disciples would be – for there are many **traditions**, which speak of our Lord considering who His disciples would be even as a boy (**Infant Jesus of Prague tradition**); yet, **Scripture** does record that **the night** before He chose **the Twelve** that Jesus and His Heavenly Father had a powwow about who should be in this **inner circle**! Many of our young people are such good **Catholics** – they grow up in a **Catholic family** – maybe even attend **Catholic school**; but for sure, they go to **CCD classes** – they may even be **altar servers** and attend **Mass** every Sunday...; yet they go away to college and promptly dispose of their **Catholic Faith**. But did they **pray** and ask God, when they left home and went to school, did they **pray** asking God to dispose **the hearts** of their fellow students to become their friends in this new campus setting? See, that is why Jesus spent **the whole night** in **prayer** asking God the Father to send the Holy Spirit to soften **the hearts of the Twelve**, so that when they were called, they would *leave everything and follow Jesus*. Did you never **wonder** why your spouse said, 'yes,' to your **marriage proposal**? She was so beautiful – she could have done much better in getting **a husband** than you; but see, God had disposed her **heart**, softened her **heart**, so that when you proposed your **bride** to be heard the voice of God and knew that you were the one! See, this is what happened on **that night** on the mountain-side – God the Father and God the Son sent the Holy Spirit into **the hearts of the Twelve** and they responded in **love** to the Lord's request to follow Him. The disciples are such **good friends** of the Lord, that when Jesus announces that one of them will betray Him at the Last Supper table (**John 13:21**) the disciples **looked at one another, at a loss as to whom He meant.**

Leonardo da Vinci paints the great commotion that erupts when our Lord unleashes this bomb shell, and this is what makes **the Last Supper** painting one of the greatest works of art in the world – that we can witness **the Twelve** reacting to the betrayal of God's Son.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 11th

6:00 pm, **St. Peter's Cathedral, Rockford Pro Populo**

Sunday, April 12th Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Leo Bushman/ Will Klein

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Schultz

Noon **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Atherton

Monday, April 13th

(+) Robert Bulfer/ Mr. & Mrs. Craig Setchell

Tuesday, April 14th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Celia Haub/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

Wednesday, April 15th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Theresa Wilson

Thursday, April 16th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Mike Hanson/ Janet Widolff

Friday, April 17th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Edward McLaughlin/ Fr. Randy

10:45 am, **Stonecroft** (+) Donald & (+) Elaine Henkel/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, April 18th

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Fr. Hughes/ Family

Sunday, April 19th 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Westin Montavon

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Kelly Lewis/ Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moyer

Noon **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy



HOW TO PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

START WITH: Our Father... Hail Mary... I believe in God...

— Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

— For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

CONCLUDE WITH: 3 X Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Arrive early to Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before each Mass.

We will then pray a decade of the Rosary for the repose of Eileen Leffelman and Maria Fiedler, whose Funeral Masses were celebrated Easter Week.

Then we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, so that you can obtain a Plenary Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday.