



Servants of Divine Mercy News

March, 2009

www.servantsofdivinemeracy.org

P.O. Box 20463, Houma, LA 70360 985/217-6726

Welcome, Bill!

The Servants of Divine Mercy are pleased to welcome Bill Snyder, of San Antonio, Texas. Bill joins founder Allan Weilert to establish the presence of the Servants of Divine Mercy here in the diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. A retired U.S. Air Force major, Bill brings a multitude of talents to the community. He is originally from Chicago and is quite active in his parish in San Antonio. Bill looks forward to living in community and sharing his many delicious recipes and cooking skills with us!

Do you know any men who might be called to a life of prayer and ministry with us? Give them this newsletter and ask them to call us. It's that simple!



Bill Snyder

For information, about our May Vocation Discernment retreat, call Allan Weilert: 985/217-6726

A Bit of St. Faustina's Diary

When I look into the future, I am frightened, But why plunge into the future? Only the present moment is precious to me, As the future may never enter my soul at all. It is no longer in my power to change, correct or add to the past; For neither sages nor prophets could do that. And so what the past has embraced I must entrust to God.

From *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, Notebook I

Jesus, I trust in You!

We understand that our nation's economic situation is tenuous, at best as we possibly sink into a depression. And we know that your finances might be very tight, but please consider sending a *small* monthly gift to help cover our basic needs, so we can be free to minister to God's poor. Thanks and be sure of our prayers!

Feeling the Pinch?

Please Help Us With a Monthly Donation!

Establishing a new community can be quite expensive. Please pray about helping us monthly with a donation that will assist us to pay our bills. Your gift is fully tax-deductible. We will not share your personal information with anyone. Thanks and may the Lord reward your kind generosity. Mail to: Servants of Divine Mercy, P.O. Box 20463, Houma, LA 70360.

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(Please Print) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



First in Series: The Charism of the Servants of Divine Mercy

To help you get to know us better, we will begin a 5-month series of articles to explore the 5 key dimensions of the Servants of Divine Mercy. This month, we will look at the **semi-contemplative** aspect of our community. By the way, we use the term *charism* (meaning “gift of the Holy Spirit”) because our Vatican II Fathers employed that word to illustrate the unique gift each religious community has to offer the Church. The Holy Spirit moves in wonderfully diverse ways within the Body of Christ. Our charism, therefore, is particular to us; it is the manner in which the Holy Spirit has stamped the evidence of His sweet, powerful, life-changing Mercy on our souls. How grateful we are for this awesome grace!

We, as Servants of Divine Mercy, are devoted to both the contemplative life of a monastic community as well as to active work of an institute of apostolic ministry. To combine the contemplative with the active life can be quite a challenge, but we attempt this daunting feat by surrendering our daily schedules to the balance Our Merciful Lord intends for us. Jesus is the Model Semi-contemplative. He often withdrew to quiet, desolate places to pray and then returned to the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

So, we divide our day into 4 parts of 6 hours each: **prayer, ministry, community time, and sleep**. Discipline in our lives requires us to be good stewards of our time. May the Lord help us be good servants!

Lent 2009 Begins

The word “Lent” is derived from the Anglo Saxon *lencten*, meaning “Spring.” Prior to moving to South Louisiana, I never gave too much thought about the notion that Lent *is* Spring. What a pleasant experience to turn down a neighborhood street this week to see a huge bed of multi-colored tulips framed by blooming red-buds! Indeed, Spring is here, and so is Lent...

One way to experience Lent with new eyes is to become a catechumen, in a sense. Look at Lent as a preparation for Baptism (or renewal of one’s Baptism). As Our Lord coaxes us out of our familiar comfort zones into the bleak, dry-desert solitude of prayer and fasting, He shows us the path to refreshing oases of peace and renewal ahead. If we only trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He will lead us to a deeper union with Him. A spiritual adventure awaits us. Let’s go!

During this Lent, ask for BIG things! Ask Our Father for the grace to renew not only your Baptismal promises, but for a spiritual revolution. Approach Him with simple, child-like faith and ask Him to work within you to grow in freedom. Our Father loves you so much and wants you to rejoice in His love. Ask Him for the grace of a new springtime to bud forth all the fruit the Holy Spirit longs to give you and to the Church. Ask Our Lady to intercede for all the Church on our Lenten journey of faith.

Prayer to Our Mother of Mercy

Oh Holy Mary, Ever Virgin, we greet you, the Cause of Our Joy and Our Mother of Mercy! We are your poor children who need your motherly intercession. Pray for us, dear Mother! Cover our loved ones with your Mantle of Mercy and obtain health, conversion, and holiness for all of them. Keep us always united with your Immaculate Heart and lead us closer to the Adorable Sacred Heart of your Son and Our Lord. Amen.

