



# Servants of Divine Mercy News

January, 2009

P.O. Box 20463, Houma, LA 70360 985/855-3593

*Jesus, I trust in You!*

Divine Mercy Spirituality is as old as Salvation History. In revelations during the 1930s to a Polish religious sister, St. Maria Faustina, Our Lord appeared to her as a Risen Savior with rays of Blood and Water radiating from His Sacred Heart. Jesus commanded St. Maria Faustina to paint an Image of this vision and to inscribe it with the signature,

**"Jesus, I trust in You."**

Although her attempts at painting an Image failed, since St. Maria Faustina was not an artist, a painter was commissioned to produce the first Image of Divine Mercy, which is venerated in the church where she is buried in Poland.

## New Year Begins With Discernment Retreat

2009 rang in with rejoicing as four men coming from Louisiana, Texas, and Florida joined founder Allan Weilert for a retreat in the home of the Servants of Divine Mercy in Houma, Louisiana. The purpose of this weekend with the Lord was to continue the discernment process regarding how God is calling us to serve Him.

Presentations on the retreat included a talk and discussion on each of the five primary dimensions of the charism of the Servants of Divine Mercy:

- +Semi-contemplative
- +Charismatic
- +Eucharistic
- +Marian
- +Obedient

The Holy Spirit moved powerfully within us and gave us many new gifts with which we will serve the Body of Christ.

Please keep in your

prayers all the men discerning with us. Be sure of our daily prayers.

Our next discernment retreat will be held March 6-8, 2009, beginning with evening prayer and dinner. If you would like more information, please call Allan Weilert:

985/855-3593.



January 2009 Retreatants left to right: William Snyder, Thomas Joseph, Jim St. Raymond, and Fr. Bob Garrione

**"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory."**

**Jesus to St. Maria Faustina**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## House-Hunting in Houma

New Year, new house. The Servants of Divine Mercy are hoping to locate and purchase a residence that will also operate as a base for our out-reach and ministry to the community. We need a space that is accessible to the poor, yet able to be expanded as we grow. We put all our trust in the abundance of Mercy of the Lord to provide our needs, as He always has. God is so faithful!

Currently, we are living in a rental house which has worked

until now. Obviously, if men keep joining us, we'll need more room to ensure our brothers' privacy as well as a place for prayer.

Please pray with us that we will soon find an appropriate property on which we can live and serve our poor brothers and sisters.



## A Look at the Events of 2008

2008 was an exciting year for the Servants of Divine Mercy. We praise God for the warm welcome of Bishop Sam Jacobs to the diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Allan arrived in June and enjoyed the hospitality of Jay Alexius until November when he moved into the current community residence.

In August, Allan started a

part-time job instructing massage therapy, medical assisting, and criminal justice students at Blue Cliff College. After returning from a pilgrimage to the holy sites of France, including Lourdes during its 150th jubilee year, he began his position of Director of Education at Blue Cliff College.

We hosted three discernment retreats in 2008 and prayed with

a total of five men who came from all over the country. Over 400 prospective members have received mailings from us.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, Allan's mother passed away. Mom died as she lived—in a holy, gentle way. Thanks for your loving support and comfort. May she rest in peace!

## An Attitude of Gratitude

If you're like me, I can usually find a hundred things to complain about. This or that is no good, too spicy, etc... Once we get started, there's no stopping us! We are beginning a new year, 2009. Please join me in making this year different by adopting an *attitude of gratitude* for all the incredible graces and blessings the Lord continually pours out on

us. He is so good to give us a family, a home, a place to worship Him and priests to administer the sacraments to us, food and clothing, transportation, good health, angelic protection from unseen evils, security, peace, countless gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, supportive friends and co-workers, the opportunity for an education, the

the awesome spectacle of nature, even for our water, sewer, and gas, we thank You, Oh Lord! You could probably think of many more reasons to thank God if you put your mind to it. God is so good to us! Let's make 2009 the Year of Gratitude. Together, we begin to banish the spirit of complaining by giving thanks to Our Merciful, Holy God!