



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY
FOR THE INCARCERATED
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

The Serving Brother



ADVENT 2012

A Message from Fra' James-Michael von Stroebble, Knight Grand Cross of Justice

To love thy neighbor (even if he's unlikable!)

The rule of the Fraternity of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem was to serve the sick and the poor. This ancient tradition has been fulfilled by the Knights of St John through more than nine centuries of service, even when they were engaged in courageous battle. It continues today with the Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. This rule is based on the command of our Lord Jesus to love our neighbors.

That command sounds sort of easy, if you like you neighbor. But what if you don't like some of your neighbors? How can you 'love' them? Let's face it, some of our neighbors do not make it easy to even like them, let alone to 'love' them. Sometimes they make us feel the exact opposite.

The scriptures clarify this command by telling us "Do to others as you would have them do to you," or "do nothing to another that you would not want to be done to yourself." These are not only the words of our Savior, but are found in many cultures and faiths.

The love Jesus spoke of, and still speaks of, is not the same as the personal love we feel for our family and friends, for our Church and country. It is

not that "warm fuzzy feeling." Rather, it starts as the willingness to recognize that the other person has rights, the same as you do. It is to accept that the other guy might be of a different age, size, color, national origin, physical condition, educational level, social background, and even might be a little strange or maybe a lot strange. It is to know that he might not like you, and that you might feel the same about him!

BUT in spite of the fact that you do not feel 'friendly' toward the person, or might even feel unfriendly, it is your willingness to see him as another human, and if he needs help which you can provide, you should do so. This does not mean giving him your canteen or anything which in fact might be harmful, even if he wishes it. But you should not do anything against him which you would not want him to do to you. Treat him like another child of God, even if he does not treat you the same. You don't have to hang around with him, but you should pray for him.

The code of chivalry is the rule that all good knights lived by and still live by even to this day. The code requires us

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SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER
ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

His Most Eminent Highness
Fra' Matthew Festing
The Prince & Grand Master
Magistral Palace, Rome, Italy

Mr. Jack E. Pohrer, GCM
President, American Association
New York, NY

His Excellency **Fra' John T. Dunlap, KJ**
Knight of Justice

His Eminence **Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan**
Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain
& Principal Chaplain

Dr. Robert J. Fredericks, KMOB
Chairman, Prison Ministry

Mr. Steven G. Caron, KM
Chairman, Editorial Board & Publisher

Fr. George T. Williams, SJ
Vice Chairman, Editorial Board; Editor
& Magistral Chaplain

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His Holiness **Pope Benedict XVI**
The Vatican

His Excellency **Carlo Maria Viganò**
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

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THE ASSOCIATION'S SERVICE AREA

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H.E. Dennis M. Schnurr
Province of Cincinnati (Est. 1850)

H.E. Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan
Province of New York (Est. 1850)

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Province of Boston (Est. 1875)

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Province of Milwaukee (Est. 1875)

H.E. Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap
Province of Philadelphia (Est. 1875)

H.E. Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Province of Chicago (Est. 1880)

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Province of Dubuque (Est. 1893)

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Province of Newark (Est. 1937)

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Archbishop Designate
Province of Indianapolis (Est. 1944)

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Province of Omaha (Est. 1945)

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The Adoration of the Shepherds, by Rembrandt van Rijn (Holland) 1646

A Seasonal Message from the Publisher

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Dames and Knights of the Order of Malta, I extend our warmest wishes for the Advent and Christmas seasons to you, and to your colleagues and loved ones!

The church year starts anew with the anticipation of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, the Light of the Word, Jesus of Nazareth. Following along with the seasonal bible readings, which appear on the next page, will bring you closer to the expectations expressed by Our Lord in His earthly ministry.

Jesus told us that meeting His expectations will be neither easy nor comfortable. In fact, as His kingdom is not of this world, those striving to share in His eternal joy will likely act in ways that non-believers may find odd. Fra' James-Michael one of the senior Knights of Malta in North America explains in this edition that living our Order's lifestyle means even caring for and praying for those whom you might think hate you.

People that you know may think this is simply crazy! However, Jesus the Christ knows what is in our hearts, beyond all of the barriers and defenses that we build up to protect ourselves. He called each of us to act as a light to others, leading by our example. By really learning how Jesus wants us to live our lives,

Mass readings for the summer

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Dec 3-89	Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11	Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37	Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6
Dec 10-16	Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	Zec 2:14-17 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38	Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
Dec 17-23	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45	1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56	Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45
Dec 24-30	2 Sm 7:1-16 Lk 1:67-79	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	Sir 3:2-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52
Dec31-Jan 6	1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34	1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42	1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51	Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12
Jan 7-13	1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	1 Jn 4:7-10 Mk 6:34-44	1 Jn 4:11-18 Mk 6:45-52	1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Lk 4:14-22a	1 Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-16	1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 3:22-30	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Lk 3:15-22
Jan 14-20	Heb 1:1-6 Mk 1:14-20	Heb 2:5-12 Mk 1:21-28	Heb 2:14-18 Mk 1:29-39	Heb 3:7-14 Mk 1:40-45	Heb 4:1-5, 11 Mk 2:1-12	Heb 4:12-16 Mk 2:13-17	Is 62:1-5 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11
Jan 21-27	Heb 5:1-10 Mk 2:18-22	Heb 6:10-20 Mk 2:23-28	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 Mk 3:1-6	Heb 7:25-8:6 Mk 3:7-12	Acts 22:3-16 Mk 16:15-18	2 Tm 1:1-8 Mk 3:20-21	Neh 8:2-10 1 Cor 12:12-30 Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Jan 28-Feb 3	Heb 9:15, 24-28 Mk 3:22-30	Heb 10:1-10 Mk 3:31-35	Heb 10:11-18 Mk 4:1-20	Heb 10:19-25 Mk 4:21-25	Heb 10:32-39 Mk 4:26-34	Mai 3:1-4 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Lk 4:21-30
Feb 4-10	Heb 11:32-40 Mk 5:1-20	Heb 12:1-4 Mk 5:21-43	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Mk 6:1-6	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Mk 6:7-13	Heb 13:1-8 Mk 6:14-29	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Mk 6:30-34	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11
Feb 11-17	Gn 1:1-19 Mk 6:53-56	Gn 1:20-2:4a Mk 7:1-13	Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Dt 30:15-20 Lk 9:22-25	Is 58:1-9a Mt 9:14-15	Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32	Dt 26:4-10 Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13
Feb 18-24	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46	Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32	Est C:12-25 Mt 7:7-12	1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19	Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36
Feb25-Mar 3	Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-46	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9

you will be able to better reflect His light to all of those around you.

It's true that each of us is far from perfect. However, every day of the new year provides us a fresh opportunity to glorify God in the way that we live our lives. Sisters and brothers, let's commit to each other to live each day better than the last!

In closing out the year, I'd like to share some of the feelings that I have recently experienced:

Sadness. Our beloved "Nuns of Malta" lost their longtime chaplain, Fr. George Aquilina. As you may recall, these nuns conduct our Church Without Walls Program, praying with and for prisoners in North America. Fr. Aquilina was a great help in establishing and maintaining your link with the Nuns of Malta.

Please pray for the repose of his soul, and that he will speedily be welcomed to the house of Our Father in heaven. Also, your sending a note of condolence to the nuns addressed to

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

to protect those who cannot protect themselves, to help the helpless, to care for those who need care, even a wounded enemy. A good Christian is obedient to the Lord; he loves his neigh

PUBLISHER'S LETTER, CONTINUED

Sister Christine Marie Vella at the monastery would be much appreciated. Their address: Jerosolimitan Nuns, Saint Ursula Monastery, Saint Ursula Street, Valletta VLT 1235, Malta EU

Joy! Your friend and mine, our Editor Fr. George Williams SJ was promoted to Magistral Chaplain in the Order of Malta. This is a lifetime appointment which officially makes him a member of the Order's membership category for priests. His leadership in serving the imprisoned is a matter of pride for all of us who love the Order of Malta.

Pride. The Order of Malta has several associations in North America. Following the encouragement of our Prince Fra' Mathew Festing, the Federal Association has initiated a Prison Ministry Committee that now joins with the efforts of the American and Canadian Associations of the Order. We look forward to their contribution and pledge to work closely with them to get the most out of our combined efforts.

Thankfulness. The fine people of the Congregation of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Stockbridge, MA have been a key part of bringing "The Serving Brother" to your doorstep over the past few years. Their printing operation does a wonderful job, relishing the challenge of reproducing artwork of the masters and crisply printed text for your enjoyment. Their colleague Bryan Thatcher has also shared many wonderful observations on the relevance of The Divine Mercy that Pope John Paul II charged the Marians with promoting. Please pray for the continued success of

bor, even if he doesn't like him.

And so we remember especially at this time the song of the angels: "Peace on earth to people of good will."

Be of good will as by loving your neighbor, you may find peace. ✠

their ministry.

Amazement. The folks at our graphic designers, Invisible Man Studios, never fail to create a look for each edition that is more elegant than we imagine possible. They truly understand how the Order seeks to serve you and are clearly motivated to deliver on that aspiration. Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide them both fresh inspiration and encouragement in their own spiritual growth.

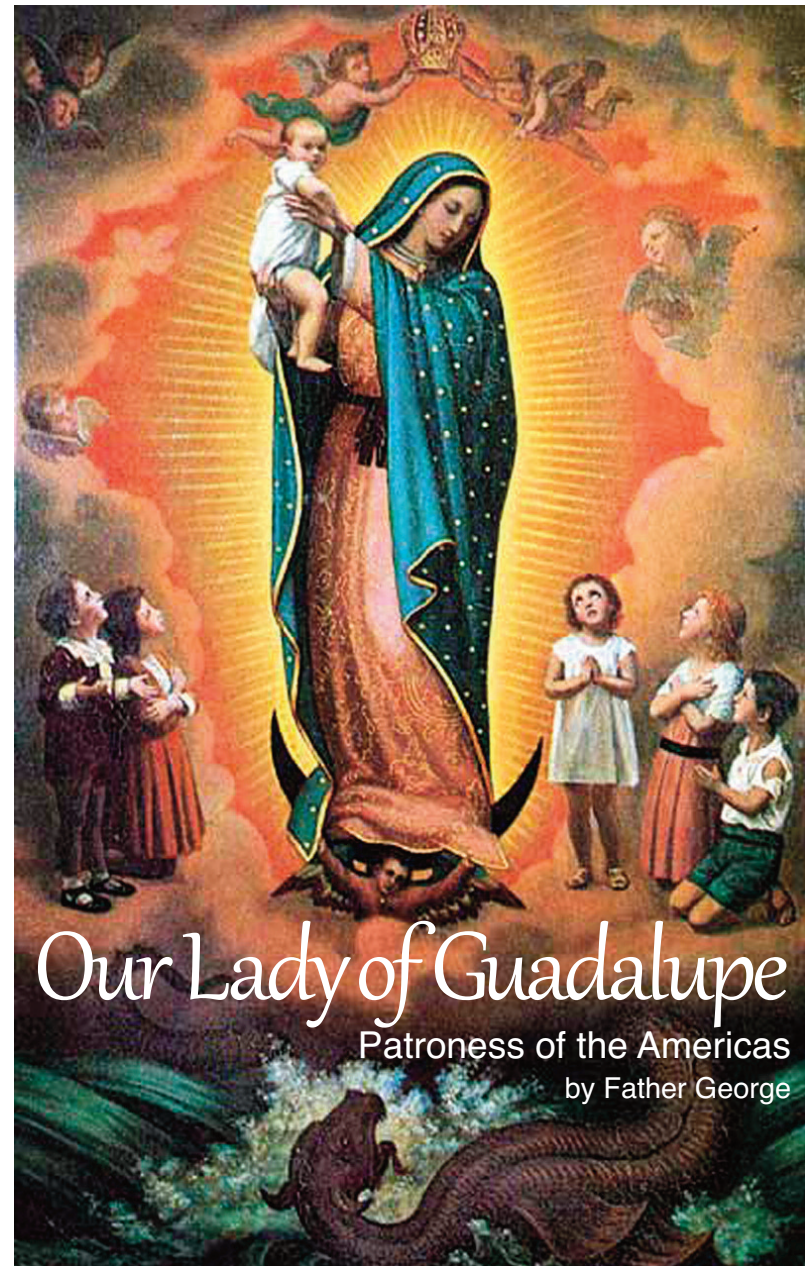
Gratitude. As a volunteer organization, our strong desire to serve you can sometimes exceed our tangible resources. I thank you, our readers, for your input, for your forgiveness when we fall short, and for your prayers that the Dames and Knights of the Order of Malta working in concert with our Serving Sisters and Brothers and other volunteers will genuinely reflect the light of Jesus Christ to those that we come in contact with, most particularly poor, sick and outcast souls.

As we celebrate the Order of Malta's 900th year of being established as an official religious order of the Catholic Church in February 2013, nothing is more important than keeping faith with our founder, Blessed Gerard, and his confreres who cared for the sick and poor on the streets of Jerusalem.

With best wishes for the Advent and Christmas seasons,



Steven G. Caron, KM
Publisher



It Was Bitterly Cold That December morning; the wind was sharp and dry, from the north. Juan Diego wrapped his cloak around himself as he walked

up the hill. All around him were the jumbled ruins of the great temple his people had built. On this spot his Aztec fathers worshipped their gods. They were powerful and proud people. Until the strangers from the East came and tore their whole world apart. Juan Diego was old enough to remember the old days and he felt the sadness and humiliation of his conquered people.

As he neared the top of the hill, he heard a young woman's voice call to him: "Juanito!" And there, seeming to step out of the rays of the morning sunlight was a young Indian girl, her skin as dark as Juan's, her eyes the color of chocolate, her hair straight and black. She wore traditional Aztec clothing like his, and around her waist was a black sash that meant she was pregnant.

She spoke to him in his own language: "I am the Virgin Mary, and I wish for a church to be built on this hilltop. Here I will offer all my love and compassion, my help and my protection to those who will come to me with their sorrows."

She told him to go and tell the Spanish bishop what he had seen. The rest of the story you may already know: how the Bishop showed him no respect and threw him out of his office; and how when Juan Diego returned to the Bishop and opened his cloak filled with fresh roses picked in mid-December on that hilltop, they were both astonished to see that the image of the beautiful young woman had been somehow imprinted upon the material of his cloak.

Now, nearly 5 centuries later, what does this dark-skinned image of Mary have to say to us?

A lot. Her voice calls to us through the centuries echoing with the voices of all the other Juan's and Maria's in history who have experienced oppression and injustice.

Mary speaks for the outcasts: Native Americans, African slaves, and poor

immigrants; exploited and uninsured workers; undocumented aliens; women trafficked and abused. She stands by the road with a sign that says "Homeless, hungry." She has never voted, can't read, doesn't have health insurance or the proper immigration paperwork. She works 16 hours a day in a sweatshop making clothing she'll never wear. She is the mother of prisoners; she is the mother of the powerless.

Guadalupe is a troublemaker. She shows up uninvited. She broke into our New World history, not with a Bishop's pronouncement, not in white virginal clothes, but in the brown skin of a peasant girl. The same kind of girl whose voice is never heard in the hallways of the rich and powerful unless she is busy vacuuming or dusting or cleaning their bathrooms.

This pregnant Maria knows what it is like to get up before dawn, make tortillas for her kids and then go to work long hours at the factory.

Guadalupe reminds us how messy the incarnation really is. How at the heart of God's mercy there is great sorrow and suffering. How in the midst of our imperfect world there is such indescribable joy.

She points us to the liberating power of Jesus Christ, who also stands throughout history with the poor and the oppressed. She reminds us that her son too was arrested, tried, convicted and executed by the state. She reminds us that no matter how bad things seem to be, with God there is always hope for a better future.

We pray that Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all the Americas, will inspire us to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, wherever we are. ✠

Father George T. Williams SJ, Editor of The Serving Brother, is Chaplain of San Quentin State Prison.

What is a Serving Brother?

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. During its early history as a military force, the Knights of Malta required the support of many helpers. One such group of helpers was known as "Serving Brothers." These men assisted the Knights when called to fight, and also served the Chaplains in tending to the sick. While not members of the Order, they fully embraced its values and lifestyle.

Anyone may spiritually participate as a Serving Brother or Sister by actively participating in the life of the Roman Catholic Church, including regular attendance at worship services, keeping up with seasonal bible readings, saying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, studying our Faith and staying true to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church.

An introduction to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta (SMOM)

The SMOM is an international religious order recognized by a decree of Pope Pascal II in 1113. Led by the Knights of Justice, who are professed Friars, its Grand Master holds the rank of Cardinal. Most of its 13,000 Knights and Dames are not under vows, but are devoted to developing their spirituality, serving the faith, and caring for sick, poor and outcast souls.

In 1783, Benjamin Franklin presented the *Libertas Americana* medal of the United States of America to the SMOM in thanks for the crucial help it provided during the War of Independence. Over 1,800 Knights and Maltese sailors enlisted in the French Navy specifically to assist the American colonies win freedom.

Give your brain a workout!

Sudoku Puzzle

6	2				7	5	3
	9	5		6			
		3	8	7		6	4
	7		3		1	2	
8	4			6	2	3	
			6			4	1
1	5	4				9	7

Sudoku Directions Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. **ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE**

Brain Teasers

4 fathers, 2 grand-fathers and 4 sons went to watch the movie. What is the minimum number of the tickets they need to buy?

What kind of storm is always in a rush?

A baby falls out of a twenty-story building onto the ground and is unharmed. How?

Why do people go to bed?

Message of the Divine Mercy, from Dr. Bryan Thatcher

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Americas

In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared on four occasions to a poor Mexican named Juan Diego. On his cactus fiber cloak, or *tilma*, she left a miraculous image of herself. Through the image, she evangelized the Indians about God and the necessity of ending human sacrifice. Amazingly, over the next seven years, all human sacrifice ended in Mexico, and millions converted to Christianity!

Just as then, her intercession is needed now to end the human sacrifice of abortion, and the death penalty that come from the mentality of a culture of death. Life is a gift from God! Thank God that the Virgin Mary was pro-life! And she wants us to think of her as our Mother our Heavenly Mother. “I am not only the Queen of Heaven, but also the Mother of Mercy and your Mother” (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 330).

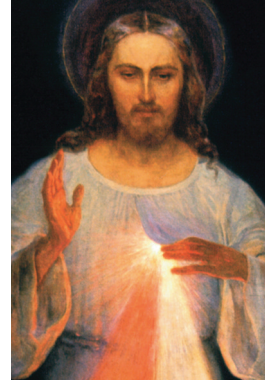
St. Maria Faustina often prayed to Our Lady for her country:

“Most merciful Jesus, I beseech You through the intercession of Your Saints, and especially the intercession of Your dearest Mother who nurtured You from childhood, bless my native land. I beg You, Jesus, look not on our sins, but on the tears of little children, on the hunger and cold they suffer. Jesus, for the sake of these innocent ones, grant me the

grace that I am asking of You for my country.” (*Diary*, entry 286)

We can follow her example by praying for our own country today:

Despite the great wealth of our land, today many many families are struggling to keep their kids housed and fed. We can pray for them. Many of our own loved ones struggle to make ends meet. Mary, the mother of Jesus, the mother of Mercy incarnate, is one to whom we can turn in any circumstance, trusting in her maternal compassion and powerful intercession. When we struggle with the stresses of life, let us ponder the attitude of Mary the woman of Faith so that we can follow her example of trustful surrender to the Lord: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done with me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Then, just as the merciful Savior became incarnate in Mary, so the mercy of God can become alive in us as well. ✠



Bryan Thatcher, MD is the Director of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, 10016 Park Place Ave, Riverview, FL 33569 (877)380-0727 eadm@marian.org

Puzzle solutions

- 1) Just 4. All of the fathers are sons. Two of them are grandfathers.
- 2) A hurricane
- 3) It fell from a first floor window.
- 4) Because it won't come to them.

7	9	6	3	8	2	4	5	1
8	1	4	7	5	6	2	3	9
5	3	2	4	1	9	8	6	7
1	7	3	2	6	5	9	4	8
9	2	8	1	4	3	6	7	5
4	6	5	9	7	8	3	1	2
6	4	9	5	2	1	7	8	3
2	8	1	6	3	7	5	9	4
3	5	7	8	9	4	1	2	6