

2006 – Entrusting the Islands to The Divine Mercy

New Bishop of Honolulu Dedicates the Islands to The Divine Mercy

On April 23, 2006 (Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday), Bishop Larry Silva dedicated the Diocese of Honolulu to The Divine Mercy. The dedication took place during a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Mercy. The Diocese of Honolulu is believed to be the first diocese to dedicate itself to The Divine Mercy. Bishop Silva agreed to do the dedication (at the request of a lay person) with one special intention in mind.

The bishop made his intention known to the priests of the diocese in a February 21 letter in which he explained why he was making the dedication. *"I want to do this with one special intention in mind,"* he wrote, *"an increase of local vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in Hawaii."* He urged all pastors to have Divine Mercy celebrations in their own parishes. *"I would like to encourage you to consider some celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday in your parish, joining in prayer for this special intention for an increase of local vocations."*

EADM Hawaii saw this as a floodgate of grace opening for the islands. The dedication confirmed our missions and goals as we were well underway with our preparations for a Divine Mercy Crusade and a September conference which included a Vocations Fair promoting interests in vocations. Being open to the message of the Divine Mercy, Bishop Silva gave a warm reception to the EADM Hawaii Board of Directors which included leaders of the Young Apostles of Mercy. During a meeting on April 10, we presented him with the missions, goals and aspirations of the apostolate. We thanked him for the act of entrusting the Hawaiian Islands to the merciful protection and care of Jesus, The Divine Mercy. We then invited him to become a guest in the September conference in which he gladly agreed to do. Bishop Silva acknowledged the works of the apostolate and imparted his blessings on the Hawaii group. In his letter, he wrote: *"The mission of professing and proclaiming the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is one that is much needed and that will bear much fruit. Taking the message of Divine Mercy to all by studying the Sacred Scriptures and the writings of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska will also bear much fruit in bringing healing to a world torn by discord and dissension, a lack of respect for life in all its stages and a growing secularism. May the Lord who has begun the good work in you bring it fulfillment!"*



EADM Hawaii Board of Directors with Bishop Larry Silva

Divine Mercy Crusade 2006

Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz of Poland returned to Hawaii for two weeks in April to lead the Divine Mercy Crusade 2006. He also brought unique Divine Mercy materials from the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy as well as from the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow, Poland. We took him to all the islands and the people residing outside of Oahu were once again very grateful that we brought our guest to their parishes. Not often do they get visits from a priest from Poland who happens to be an expert both on Divine Mercy and Holy Angels.

In each island, Fr. Peter celebrated Mass and preached about Divine Mercy. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed where the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy was sung or recited. Each night was concluded with a veneration of the first class relic of St. Faustina brought by Fr. Peter from the Divine Mercy Shrine in Cracow. On the eve of Mercy Sunday, Fr. Peter conducted a Day of Reflection focusing on the Feast of Divine Mercy – the Plenary Indulgence and Conditions for Obtaining the Graces Promised. Because he believes that the graces of Divine Mercy should be made known as much as possible to many people, he requested to preach on the subject during the Feast of Mercy Sunday in many parishes. He preached in four parishes on that special day and in one church during the evening vigil mass. Being an expert on Holy Angels as well, Fr. Peter conducted a retreat on the subject of Angels on his last day in Oahu. He emphasized in this retreat that God created angels out of His endless mercy for all of us. He also talked about the presence of angels in the life of St. Faustina.

Eucharistic Retreat

One of the missions of EADM is to proclaim the truth of the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. As Eucharistic Apostles, we organized a retreat in July to foster Eucharistic devotion. Collaborating with the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration committee of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in West Oahu, EADM Hawaii invited an expert on the subject of Eucharistic Adoration. Fr. John Grigus, OFM Conv. was invited to lead a 3-day retreat focusing on Eucharistic Adoration – source of spiritual renewal in the third millennium. Fr. John is the director of Marytown's Perpetual Adoration Program and founder and director of the Harvest Vocation Prayer Ministry in Chicago. He also serves as Spiritual Director for the Pope John Paul II Eucharistic Association in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Divine Mercy Conference 2006 – Apostles of Mercy

EADM Hawaii had a very successful three-day conference at the Hawaii Convention Center this past September 8 - 10. The conference theme was Apostles of Mercy which was magnificently depicted in a painting produced by Tommy Canning. St. Faustina, Pope John Paul II, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Hawaii's own saints - Blessed Damien and Blessed Mother Marianne Cope of Molokai - were the Mercy Saints chosen as the model apostles for this conference.

Each guest speaker representing the Mercy Saints spoke passionately on the life of each saint and captured the audience by their zeal and experience of God's mercy.

The conference was blessed with two local religious - Fr. Herman Gomes, SSCC, who is considered the expert historian on the life of Blessed Damien and Sr. Marion Kikukawa, OSF, the Vice Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Mother Marianne.

Blessed Mother Teresa's life and works was presented by Fr. Patrick Torres, MC, who is the Vocations Director for the Missionaries of Charity Fathers in Tijuana, Mexico. He also emphasized during a homily that devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady is the answer to the Church's vocation crisis.

Dr. Bryan Thatcher spoke about St. Faustina who is known as the Secretary of God's Mercy. He also talked about the urgent need for Christians to become Apostles of Mercy now.

Mrs. Trish Short, a pro-life advocate, and founder of "Artists for Life" ministry in Maryland had a profound testimony that touched the hearts to tears.

Mr. Dan Lynch, Director of the Apostolate of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe talked about Our Lady as Mother of Mercy and Gifts from Heaven – the Images of Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Highlighting the call to vocations was guest speaker Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, the Vocations Director for the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. His well-spoken testimony that led to the miracle of his priesthood left such an encouraging sign for the youth of today. Calling himself the "Poster Child of Divine Mercy", his talk drew many youth to hearing the call. Fr. Calloway also talked about Pope John Paul II as the Great Mercy Pope. It was a powerful and passionate presentation that resulted in a standing ovation.

Fr. John Grigus, OFM Conv, Director of Marytown Perpetual Adoration Program returned to the islands to talk about the Eucharist as the "Tabernacle of Divine Mercy". He also rendered a powerful conclusion for the conference with an urgent message of "Divine Mercy – The Final Hope for Mankind".

The fullness of the three-day weekend event included a grand welcome with the procession of the Knights of Columbus and other lay organizations carrying colorful banners. The conference also included an International Rosary (each decade recited in different ethnic languages), confessions, Holy Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Healing Service and a special Youth Session.

Other celebrants who helped to make the weekend masses special were Fr. Michael Sawyer, a Benedictine priest and Fr. Gary Secor, the Vicar of Clergy and Vocations Director for the Diocese of Honolulu. The conference culminated on the last day with the presence of Bishop Larry Silva who imparted his blessings as well as encouraging remarks. After celebrating the closing Mass for the conference, he encouraged the attendees to be hopeful in the mercy and love of God even though statistics show a bleak and dark future in the dwindling number of vocations, as well as decrease in mass attendance where parishes have had to close. His final remarks celebrating this memorable event left each one with words to ponder on "***We do not live by statistics but by faith in the good works of God***".



Closing Mass at the Conference



Conference Theme Painting
www.art-of-divinemercy.co.uk



Preparing for the Closing Mass Procession



Guest Speaker Dr. Bryan Thatcher,
EADM Founder and Director



Diocese of Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
During a Eucharistic Healing Service

An “Ocean of Mercy” in the Middle of the Pacific Ocean

The Spirit of Mercy is beginning to strongly manifest itself in the tiny island chain of Hawaii – an “Ocean of Mercy” right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. After the Divine Mercy Conference 2006, quite a number of individuals had expressed their desires to learn more about Divine Mercy. Some people from different islands have indicated their interests to form or join EADM cenacles. In particular, a group of very dedicated Samoan ladies in Honolulu wanted to help in the works of Divine Mercy. They already meet regularly in their parish to pray and study about Divine Mercy. Being the main facilitator of the Hawaii cenacles, I encouraged them to formally join the family and become part of the EADM worldwide ministry. I provided them with the cenacle formation guideline materials approved by the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception. On fire with God’s Divine Mercy, these ladies immediately formed a youth cenacle in their parish. During the first session, over twenty young people attended! These Samoan devotees hope that they will be able to help plant seeds of vocation and holiness in these young people. They are eagerly waiting to be blessed during an EADM induction ceremony where they will commit themselves to become vessels of mercy.



Samoan Community in Honolulu

I feel the urgency of the Holy Spirit in asking us to spread the message of Divine Mercy quickly. In 2004, when Fr. Seraphim Michalenko asked me for what intentions shall he offer the Holy Mass for, I blurted out “for the spread of Divine Mercy in the islands!” With the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, St. Faustina and all the other Mercy Saints, we pray that we will be able to continue doing God’s will. We hope that we can establish more cenacles by organizing more crusades, retreats, days of reflections and conferences. We pray that we can provide more training seminars for cenacle leaders and members in order to deepen their understanding of Divine Mercy. We shared our future

aspirations with Bishop Larry Silva where we hope that one day, we may be able to provide a seminar for the clergy and religious in the Diocese of Honolulu. We also pray that we may be able to establish a center for Divine Mercy where people can obtain valuable information and resources on God's unfathomable love and mercy. However, all these can only be accomplished with humility and unwavering TRUST in God's Divine Providence. May His Mercy, His greatest attribute be glorified forever.

Submitted by Rose Balayan, EADM Hawaii Facilitator
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
December 8, 2006

