

Become a Eucharistic Apostle of The Divine Mercy



Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC

A Word From Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, M.I.C.

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*The concept of small Christian Communities, where the faith is instilled and deepened in those gathered in an atmosphere of song, prayer, sharing, and fellowship, is nothing new. The early Church started with only twelve apostles and a few hundred disciples, yet converts were added to it daily. "They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). It is stated eloquently in the letter to the Hebrews, "**Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful; and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching**" (Heb 10:23-25).*

It is appropriate that the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy be aggregated to the St. Stanislaus Kostka Province of the Congregation of Marians of The Immaculate Conception, as the mission statement of the apostolate is consonant with the charisms of the Congregation and Province.

On On October 27, 1910, the renovator of our congregation, Blessed George Matulaitis, wrote in his spiritual diary:

"How much good laymen and laywomen could do if they were only instructed and enlightened beforehand in matters of faith, informed about the needs of the

Church, enkindled with the fire of holy zeal and then organized into groups and attracted to the work of spreading the Faith! They would be able to bring Christ in to places we priests could not even approach."

The Directory of our congregation acts upon this desire of our Father Renovator in two numbers:

No. 84: The lay Christian faithful are to be prepared assiduously for the apostolate... First of all, they are to be helped to acquire a deeper knowledge of Sacred Scripture and Catholic Doctrine, to nourish their spiritual life and to rightly understand world conditions.

No. 85: The Congregation should take care that the people dedicated to it be joined more closely with it in an association of co-workers, that it may take advantage of their help in apostolic works and share with them its spiritual goods.

The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, challenged us during his address to our general chapters in 1987 and 1993 with the following words:

"Modern society presents new miseries and new kinds of poverty, persons who suffer isolation, families and populations which are the victims of incessant socio-economic and cultural changes, and which are discouraged by the injustices inflicted upon them, to the point that they often lose sight of the true sense and the authentic values of life... You, Marian Fathers... let yourselves be drawn to the swelling ranks of the new poor of various cultures, so as to be able to respond to their deepest aspirations, their thirst for truth, justice, and love... "

I encourage members to be faithful to the mission statement and formation guidelines, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to other cenacle members, as well as to the local church. Under the direction of the local priest, discern how your group can build up the church, realizing that we are all called to spread the Good News by the way we live our Christian lives. The efforts of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy, to enrich and deepen the spirituality and ministry of its members, affirms our motto, For Christ and the Church.

May our Merciful Savior and Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, watch over and guide your efforts.

*Yours in the Merciful Heart of Jesus,
Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, M.I.C.*