

## **2005 – Taking the Message to All the Islands**

### **A Lenten Journey of Love, Hope and Healing**

On February 2005, we invited Deacon Frank O'Connell from Ohio who had a healing ministry. As we have a couple of suffering-soul members and many sick relatives and friends, the EADM Hawaii cenacle organized Healing Services with meditations on the season of Lent. And as we felt that we were especially being called to pray for the sick, we made sure that the Chaplet was recited during the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A youth retreat was also organized and with Deacon O'Connell leading the meditations, the young participants experienced God's mercy in a very powerful way. There were conversions of hearts and there were healings. In particular, a young man not of the Catholic faith experienced emotional healing and this caused him to desire baptism in the Catholic Church. He started attending Holy Mass every Sunday with his friends and eventually entered the RCIA program.

### **Divine Mercy Crusade 2005**

To celebrate the Feast of Mercy Sunday 2005 as well as the Year of the Eucharist, we invited Fr. Jose Maniyangat, a priest from Florida who is involved in various works of mercy such as the prison and hospital ministry, St. Vincent de Paul's work for the poor and hungry, and the parish healing ministry. We also invited Annie Karto, a singer-songwriter who happens to be a member of EADM Florida. We invited back our friends from Scotland, Tommy and Allan Canning who unveiled Tommy's painting for the Year of the Eucharist – The Perfect Sacrifice. We organized a two-week crusade where we took our guests to several parishes in all the Hawaiian Islands. We chose to do that since it is costly for residents of the other islands to attend special events in Honolulu. So we brought the events to their islands instead. A few small parishes were so grateful that we did this because they said that they are often neglected. When guest speakers visit Hawaii, they oftentimes give talks or seminars in Oahu only. But by bringing the speakers to the different islands especially to secluded areas, we believe that we are personally bringing the message of mercy by visiting the people and interacting with them.

Each parish celebration during the crusade included Holy Mass, Benediction, singing of the Chaplet during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for the sick, and a healing service. In each place that we visited, we gave away free materials on Divine Mercy including the 16 - page newspaper published by Dr. Bryan Thatcher. Leaflets and booklets on the Holy Eucharist were also distributed. On the eve of Mercy Sunday, we led a Day of Reflection which focused on "*Mary, Mercy and The Eucharist*". This event became meaningful to everyone who attended since it was on this day, April 2, that our beloved Pope John Paul II, the great Mercy Pope passed away. It was not by chance that Allan Canning prepared a DVD presentation on the life of Pope John Paul II to highlight the pontiff's work and legacy especially on Divine Mercy. But on that day, the video became a timely and appropriate tribute for the life of a great Apostle of Mercy.



Feast of Mercy Sunday at  
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City

### **Divine Mercy Reflections**

Six months after the crusade, the Spirit of Mercy again was at work, gathering the faithful to meditate on the Mercy of God and the beauty of the Catholic Faith. In thanksgiving for the Year of the Eucharist, EADM Hawaii invited a priest from Poland to lead a series of reflections on Divine Mercy, Holy Angels, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Mary, Mother of Mercy and Apostles of Mercy. Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel in Marki, Poland is considered an expert on Divine Mercy and Holy Angels. He celebrated Holy Mass at several churches in Oahu and the Big Island for one week. After each Mass, 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, Poland. Although Fr. Peter's main charism is on Holy Angels, he became well-versed on the subject of Divine Mercy because he previously served as chaplain for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy (St. Faustina's congregation) in Cracow. He has spoken about Divine Mercy and Holy Angels in many countries and he continues to carry out the request of the late Pope John Paul II to *"help spread the urgent message of God's Divine Mercy!"* Because of Fr. Peter's love and devotion to The Divine Mercy, we invited him back to lead the Divine Mercy Crusade 2006.



### **The First Divine Mercy Cenacle for Young People**

After experiencing God's powerful presence during a retreat in February 2005, a group of young people formed Hawaii's first Divine Mercy Cenacle for Youth. Under the guidance of EADM Hawaii, these young people call themselves "Young Apostles of Mercy" or YAM for short. In November 2005, Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz blessed them and formally commissioned them to *"become disciples of Mercy spreading the Good News to all they meet"*. The YAMs come from different age groups – intermediate, high school and college students. They meet once a month in a residence of a family who graciously offered their home and backyard for

their meetings and group activities. They pray or sing the Chaplet and study the teachings of the Church based on the guidelines established by the Marian Fathers. They discuss fundraising ideas to support their projects. And then to close the evening, they have fun and fellowship with one another by playing games, music or just by sharing stories. They hope to reach out and connect to youth groups from other parishes. While a few adults say that youths cannot comprehend the message of Divine Mercy, these young people are proving just the opposite.

