

DIVINE MERCY PUBLICATIONS NEW ZEALAND



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

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22 August 2009 - Feast of the Queenship of Mary

DIVINE MERCY – MISSION & MESSAGE TO THE WORLD **Annual Update**

Dear Friends and Promoters of Divine Mercy

Greetings and blessings to you, your family and friends, and praise the Lord for His mercy to us now and always. It has been another active year with regard to works of mercy and promotion of Divine Mercy which many of you, in various ways, have joined to make this urgent need known to the nation and to the world. Thank you all for your continuing support both prayerful and financial.

There have been recent exciting developments with regard to the promotion and understanding of Divine Mercy in the Oceanian region, and as a result, for New Zealand.

From July 15 – 20 I attended, with my daughter Anna-Marie, Monsignor Bill Middleton (Christ the King Parish) and Alex Bailey and Natasha Hodgetts (Youth Coordinators for Christ the King), the first Oceanian Apostolic Congress on Mercy (OACOM), held in Apia, Samoa.

This congress was part of the continuum of congresses, to be held in various regions of the world this year, springing from the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM) convened in Rome during April 2008, which I also had the privilege of attending.

www.worldapostoliccongressonmercy.org

From the outset the Samoan congress for Oceania was a magnificent occasion replete with an outpouring of joy, praise, thanksgiving, and mercy. There are times during our pilgrimage on this earth, irregular but noteworthy, when we truly assume a life of more or less complete grace.

OACOM was one of these times, blessed in every way by the Lord as a gift of Himself to a nation completely devoted to God. As participants we were able to share and experience this gift through the lives of the Samoans we met at conference, through the many gifted speakers, through the inspiring priests of the Samoan Diocese, and through the gentle but firm hand of the Shepherd of Samoa, Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga., whose vision, devotion, organization, and hospitality transformed the congress into six days of ‘resting at the feet of Christ.’

St Faustina's prophetic words resonated with utmost clarity throughout this congress, "*My mission will not come to an end upon my death...I will draw aside the veils of heaven to convince you of God's goodness.*" (D281) As devotees of Divine Mercy I believe we were transformed into greater emissaries of mercy for our world and especially for our families and parishes, but as we know this mercy we received is not to remain locked in our hearts but to be reflected into the hearts of all, through word, deed, and prayer. Though the congress centred on the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the heart of Apia, there were each evening additional gatherings for prayer, adoration, testimonies, and cultural participation in outlying parishes. Two of these were particularly memorable, the evening programmes at the exquisite Shrine of the Three Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, amid the lush forests on the hills above Apia, and in the beautiful gardens and way of the Cross of the Basilica Minor Sancta Ana.

L to R –

Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga of the Diocese of Samoa

Pat Barrett, Divine Mercy Publications/Trust & National Coordinator for NZACOM 2010

Fr Patrice Chocolski, General Coordinator & Secretary World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM) Priest of the Diocese of Belley-Ars, Lyon, France

Monsignor William Middleton, Parish Priest of Christ the King Parish & Spiritual Director for Divine Mercy for Diocese of Christchurch NZ

At OACOM. Samoa. July 15-20 2009



Yet the devotional aspects of Divine Mercy were, in a sense, overshadowed by two greater truths – the Mission and Message of Mercy. **The Mission**, as a way of life for all, a personal vocation, which the Saviour gave us from the Cross and in his public life on earth. His self-gift for humanity. **The Message**, as an urgent and compelling need to proclaim mercy to a hopeless and heartless world, a world full of self but which mysteriously seeks to find solace and love as the Prodigal Son, returning to the Father. We are called to aid our brothers and sisters on that journey, which is also our particular journey. It was a journey often spoken of at the congress and poignantly so by Fr Patrice Chocolski, General Secretary for WACOM and priest of the Diocese of Belley-Ars, Lyon, France, representing Cardinal Schonborn of Vienna (President of WACOM), and who articulated two great acts of mercy that the Church, constantly and in every situation, exhorts us to embody, "*Where is your brother...?*" (Gen 4:9) and "*...your brother here was dead and has come to life, he was lost and is found*", (Luke 15:32)

No, we cannot be 'Cains', voicing his epithet, "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" (Gen 4:9). We are guardians of our brothers and sisters, and we must act so, to seek, to find, and to welcome home our lost brothers and sisters in one continuing act of mercy. Yet sometimes we are called to go away, as Fr Patrice explained, to vanish as Christ did, awaiting another time in prayer and sacrifice, until the coming of the Prodigal. The grace of the congress is continuing now to bring blessings to New Zealand and throughout the Oceanian region with the announcement that there are to be national congresses for all those nations that attended in Samoa during 2010. Monsignor Middleton, along with Fr Rory Morrissey of Herne Bay Parish, Auckland, have been named Spiritual Directors for Divine Mercy for New Zealand and I have been named as National Coordinator for the New Zealand Apostolic Congress on Mercy 2010. (NZACOM)

For a long time, it seems, the Divine Mercy movement has been struggling to find acceptance in

the Church, but now under the legacy the Great Mercy Pope, the guidance of Pope Benedict, and the active participation of Cardinal Schonborn, Fr Patrice, and many others the Church Universal has joined the fray, in force, and with her great clarity of vision and command, propelling us out into the deep, to “*let down your nets for a catch.*” Luke 5:4.

So then as the Lord commands, “*Do not tire of proclaiming My mercy*”(D1521), but seek it and exercise it always. Especially we ask you that you pray and offer Holy Hours for the national congress and the visit of Bishop Uzoukwu next year (see P4) And when it seems that you cannot find the strength for your daily struggle, you need only -

“ *...look to the one whom they have pierced.* (John 19:37)

Vision-Mission Statement for Divine Mercy for ASIA & OCEANIA (*This and the following statements on the congresses is taken from the WACOM website*)

**A multi-cultural Community
Blessed by the FATHER
In HIS Divine Mercy
Through JESUS CHRIST,
Witnessing to
His mission of Love and Service
For ASIA and OCEANIA;
Transformed by the action of the Holy Spirit
To empower the weak and the needy
In solidarity with the *Church of the Poor*
So that all peoples
Christians and Non – Christians alike
“*May have life and have it abundantly*” (Jn. 10:10)
Under the solicitude of MARY, our Mother
And St. JOSEPH, our Patron.**

Some Pointers for the Preparation of Divine Mercy Congresses in ASIA &

OCEANIA: According to the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, the Mercy Congresses are intended to be of interest to all individuals, realities and tendencies present in the Church from Parish level to diocesan, from national level to international. The concept of the Divine Mercy can be presented in tripartite form which echoes the structure of the Papal Exhortation “Christifideles Laici”: **Mystery – Communion - Mission**

Lived MYSTERY

To acknowledge our dignity and giftedness as persons created in His image and likeness by our response of faith and generous self-giving in humble service as would be demanded by our people, culture, and tradition.

To be ever grateful for His infinite Mercy revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ by living the Paschal Mystery and be dynamically transformed by the experience it offers us as individual persons and as a nation in ASIA and OCEANIA;

Deepening COMMUNION

To celebrate the Mercy of God as One BODY united in the peace of Christ and proclaim this truth in our daily life through the Liturgy of the EUCHARIST and the Sacrament of RECONCILIATION proper to our culture and tradition.

MISSION of MERCY

To concretize in our way of life the Merciful Love of God through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

To spread the Mercies of God through the Word of God and exemplify its message of love in one’s own life and community in the context of Asian culture and tradition.

“The church should be motivated by this mission....to answer the universal call to Divine Mercy, proclaimed through St Faustina to our world...the call to respond to Christ’s

urgent call to mankind to seek His mercy before He comes as the Just Judge....The culture of Divine Mercy is a way of life....to give and receive mercy..."

Fr Patrice Chocolski, General Secretary for WACOM



Part of the New Zealand delegation during the Eucharistic procession to Government Buildings in Apia, Samoa. OACOM July 15-20, 2009

NZACOM AUCKLAND OCTOBER 2010 – CALLING ALL CHURCH MINISTRIES & PARISHONERS

In preparation for NZACOM, to be held in October 2010, we are notifying all groups and individuals to register their interest in participating.

This is an opportunity for immense personal and parish growth and for the dissemination of the Divine Mercy mission and message throughout our nation, therefore it is important to note that this congress is not limited to the participation of only those groups who are directly involved with the Divine Mercy but to all parish ministries, for example, St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Women's League, DOVE, Joshua, Charismatic Renewal, Youth Groups, Prayer Groups, Rosary Groups, Passionist Family Groups, Pioneers, Legionaries, and Evangelisation groups.

It is for the Church Universal, as Mercy is universally proclaimed by Jesus Christ through His Church for all people for all times. All are needy, no one is excluded. This congress will enable all to more fully understand the reasons why God's Mercy (Divine Mercy) is central to the Mission of the Church as a new model for evangelisation by answering the call voiced by Cardinal Schonborn at the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM) in Rome, April 2008, to be "*Apostles of Mercy*" by proclaiming *mercy* : **First, "A Way of Life"; Second, "A Message", and Third, "A Devotion."**

For a much greater participation of the groups mentioned here, and many others, it is imperative that there are regional and parish coordinators, so would you please consider taking on this task and letting us know, as soon as possible, by using the contact below. We also require the services of a webmaster and website designer who can put up a dedicated site and maintain it throughout the period and through which registration fees can be paid by credit card and additional links can be added for accommodation, airfares, and congress information. We are hoping that we will be able to source these services on a

voluntary or low-cost basis. We are also seeking financial contributions to support this congress, would you consider sponsoring NZACOM with a donation?

Thank you and God Bless.

Contact: Pat Barrett National Coordinator for NZACOM 2010

Ph 359 2087 Email info@divinemeracy.co.nz

Visit of Bishop Martin Uzoukwu of Nigeria – April 2010

We are very pleased and excited to announce the forthcoming visit of Bishop Martin Uzoukwu of Minna Diocese in Nigeria to New Zealand next April. Bishop Uzoukwu is the Continental Coordinator for Divine Mercy in Africa. (Additional information will be mailed later this year) While details of his programme are still being finalised I can tell you that, God willing, he will be in Christchurch for Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11) and has been invited by Bishop Barry Jones to celebrate Mass and give the Homily at the 10.30 am service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, preach at the 9am Mass, and be the principle celebrant at the annual 3pm celebration and Mass held at Christ the King Parish in Burnside, Christchurch.

This is an extraordinary gift to Christchurch Diocese on this extraordinary day, and we are truly thankful and indebted to Bishop Barry Jones for suggesting this wonderful programme.

A visit to both Timaru and Ashburton has been confirmed, along with an evening for the combined youth groups, and a retreat and evangelisation day at Christ the King on Saturday April 17.

Following his Christchurch visit he goes to Wellington for an additional conference and parish visitation.

Now to update you on our work over the past year ;

Divine Mercy Sunday Promotions

- Writing a full page advertising feature for the Easter edition of New Zealand Catholic entitled; ‘ Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19 – Mission, Message & Devotion. If you did not see this issue we would be pleased to send you a complimentary photocopy of the article.
- Importing 8000 ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’, Plenary Indulgence, Reconciliation leaflets from Australia for insertion in NZ Catholic prior to Divine Mercy Sunday this year and distribution on Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Placing a full page advertisement featuring information on Divine Mercy Sunday in the April edition of the Marist Messenger.
- TV advertising on national television with a series of advertisements over the Easter period when we received over 300 calls, through our five call centres, and responded with free information packs. These packs contained information on the Divine Mercy image, message, and devotion, as well as a free response card for information from the Catholic Enquiry Centre in Wellington.
- We also advertised Divine Mercy Sunday with a colour ad in the Christchurch Press & Mid-Week Mail entitled, ‘ *Are you a Catholic wishing to return to your faith? This is a day of extravagant grace for you*’
- Donating a 1.5mtr framed Image of Divine Mercy to Fr Michael O’Donnell of St Joseph’s Parish in Te Puna for their Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

Overseas Missions

The Divine Mercy apostolate has supported or is continuing to support the following foreign missions which are active in promoting Divine Mercy in their parish or diocese:

- St John the Baptist, Andhra Pradesh, India. Fr Kocherla. **Sent** US\$500.00 to help parish and orphans.
- St Georges, Malankara, Kerala, India. Fr Thumpailchirayil. **Sent** US\$500 to help with church construction.
- Our Lady of Fatima, Andhra Pradesh, India. Fr Joseph Natta. **Sent** A4 Images for parishioners. (see picture)
- Fr Remalli Suresh Kumar, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Orphanage, Chatrai, AP India **Sent** US\$500 for orphans and parish
- Fr Thambi Kumar, Mary Queen of Angels Parish, Kanchikacherla, India. **Sent** A4 images, DVDs on Mercy, various leaflets
- Mrs S Musoke, Kampala, Uganda. **Sent** DVD, Powerpoint, prayerbooks and leaflets
- Chief Peter Nzenwa, Nigeria. **Sent** DVDs on Divine Mercy & prayerbooks
- Louis Mazewa, Swaziland, Africa. **Sent** 100 Divine Mercy pictures to give to AIDS patients in hospitals
- Sacred Heart Parish, Pedapadu, Sth India. Fr Budaly Arokiaswamy. **Sent** DVD, A4 pictures



**Fr Joseph Natta
distributing
Divine Mercy
Images to his
parishioners at
Our Lady of
Fatima parish in
Fatimapuri,
Rallakunta,
Andhra Pradesh
India**

Comments from Missionaries & Priests

“I sincerely thank you for your support and help to my mission whenever there is a need. I am glad and am grateful to God for giving you and your family as my benefactors. Thanks to Mother Mary and to you.”

Fr. Amrutaraj Kocherla, Andhra Pradesh, India.

“Dear My Brother, I have received your mail and thankyou. As you expressed your will to spread the Divine Mercy throughout the world, I too am happy to join you. Now I am starting in my Parish and will carry to all my sub-stations as well. Be sure of my continuous prayers.”

Fr Joseph Natta, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Rallakunta, AP India

Greetings! The big picture arrived last week! Isn't it wonderful! I have been having an input about Divine Mercy throughout Lent every Sunday, so the picture really helps with that theme and getting the message across.....I'm sure many graces will continue to come.”

Fr Michael O'Donnell of St Joseph's Parish, Te Puna, NZ

"I am delighted to promote the devotion of the Divine Mercy and am encouraged by your generosity and honour."

Chief Peter Nzenwa, Nigeria

Zambian Prisons Mission.

This outreach to some of the loneliest and forgotten souls eking out their existence in African jails continues to bear much fruit, not the least of which is the response from the many of you who have chosen to join our team of writers and correspond with one or more inmates. This support is immensely valuable in the eyes of the Lord and of course especially for the inmates concerned who have found in their writer a cause for hope in a hopeless situation and have been given love from afar, mercy for the guilty, and have not been slow to respond with great zeal and gratitude toward their writers here in New Zealand.

This is the continuation of the act of mercy extended by you, the writer, as in showing mercy you too, are shown mercy, and as both St Maximilian Kolbe and St Faustina believed, and taught, every act of mercy has an eternal value as it is linked to the Cross, the consummate Act of Mercy performed by Jesus Christ, through whom flows the grace for us to live a life of mercy and hope. For this we thank and praise the Lord for His mercy and gifts. With such an increase of correspondence there is also an increase in administration time and issues of concern for all, we are now 300 in number (the writers) corresponding with 450+ inmates, with another 350 inmates awaiting a reply from new writers.

With this in mind could you please pray about who you might be able to ask to join us in this work of mercy, or perhaps consider putting a notice in your parish bulletin?

Our work with and for the inmates includes contributing to the needs of the prisoners and now also their children's schooling through the work of Fr Bohan, their Chaplain, to whom we are sending donations several times a year. This year we have sent donations, mostly from the writing team, to help fund a year's education for 59 children in both primary and secondary schools. This is a great privilege for all involved to be able to offer mercy in such a tangible form to those in a foreign land and so help to avert the danger of them becoming street-kids and repeating the cycle of crime and incarceration. Praise the Lord for this. Would you consider sponsoring a child in school for one year? (NZ\$100 for primary, NZ\$170 for secondary)

2008-09 Apostolate Expenses

During the past year we have advertised with the Divine Mercy Image on television and in both the Catholic and secular print media. Our advertisements appeared on TV1 and TV2 over the Easter period from which we received a continuing flow of calls to our call centres from respondents wishing to know more about the image and the message of Divine Mercy.

We wish to continue with the current level of promotion for Divine Mercy with adverts on TV again this Christmas and Easter to bring lapsed Catholics back to the Church (estimated cost \$4500). We also hope to continue all of our other works of mercy in New Zealand and abroad.

Will you help us again with, both prayer and a financial contribution towards these costs so that we may continue the mission of Divine Mercy throughout our country and the world?

\$2500 will provide for 20 ads on national television over Christmas/New Year this season.

\$1500 will purchase display advertising space in a city newspaper for Divine Mercy Sunday.
\$1000 will cover the cost of importing 7500 Divine Mercy Sunday leaflets.
\$500 will help provide for orphans we support in Indian Catholic parishes
\$300 will purchase a 1.5mtr image of Divine Mercy to be sent to a parish in New Zealand
\$250 will cover the cost of mailing a *DVD on Divine Mercy Sunday* to parish priests in NZ.
\$170 will cover the cost of secondary schooling for a Zambian inmate's child for one year
\$100 will cover the cost of primary schooling for a Zambian inmate's child for one year
\$50 will allow us to send funds to purchase food and clothing for a prisoner in Zambia.
\$15 will provide a Bible for an inmate on death-row in Zambia.

Or perhaps consider sponsoring NZACOM 2010?

All donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible, receipts will be issued.

Automatic direct credit donations & bequests

We have had a wonderful response to this request and would like to thank all those who have set up direct credits, or made other donations, and encourage those of you who are able to consider helping us in this way as it greatly increases our ability to plan for additional works and to respond to those unforeseen requests that come in each year. Would you also consider making a bequest to the Divine Mercy Trust in your Will?

For your convenience our account details are entered here;

Divine Mercy Westpac, Merivale, Christchurch, A/C No. 031707 0041871 25

Just \$5.00 donated each week by direct credit is very helpful - this amounts to \$260 per year.

Those of you who are unable to contribute financially, would you consider offering an additional Chaplet of Divine Mercy each day for this work and especially for more Parish Priests to be moved to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and NZACOM 2010?

Thank you, especially for your past support, and we ask that Jesus, Divine Mercy Incarnate, may bless you, your work, your families, and fill you with His love and grace so that you may radiate mercy to all you meet.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Pat and Christine Barrett.

“My daughter give me souls. Know that it is your mission to win souls for me by prayer and sacrifice, and by encouraging them to trust in My mercy.”(D1690)

