



MARY'S HELPERS, INC.

# News

No.37 Vol. 01-02 All About Jesus & Mary Jan/Feb 2024

**MEDJUGORJE**  
January 25, 2024  
to Marija Pavlovic'

**"Dear  
children!**

**May this time  
be a time of  
prayer."**

**MEDJUGORJE**  
February 25, 2024  
to Marija Pavlovic'

*"Dear children!*  
Pray and renew your heart so that the good which you have sown may bear the fruit of joy and oneness with God. Darnel has seized many hearts and they have become unfruitful; that is why, you little children, be light, love and my outstretched hands in this world which yearns for God Who is love. Thank you for having responded to my call."

**Meditation on the Jan 25, 2024  
Message**

by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM



**A Tour on prayer**

Our mother Mary takes us on a tour of Prayer. Starting with our commitment to give our time and cultivate silence with God to pray. When we rest our body and Spirit with God's love we begin to live in the mystery of the Holy Spirit; so that our Spiritual life may grow closer to God. We will experience what Mary says.

"The goodness in us will blossom and bear fruit one hundred fold."

Mary directs us to "open and end the day with Prayer of the Heart," A habit of this prayer life helps us to enter into intimacy with Mary and Our Lord.

Stay in prayer! Love Fr.AL!

**Meditation on the Feb 25, 2024  
Message**

by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM

Our Mother Mary's message is very appropriate in this Lenten season. We are fasting and praying fervently to renew and respond with our complete hearts to God, so that we may bear the fruit of joy and oneness with God, as Mary so indicates.

Dormancy and idleness can overcome many hearts causing them to be unfruitful. We must be overcomers and children of the light, filled with love and care for our neighbors. We must reach out to the poor and practice almsgiving. We must respond with our complete hearts to God as Mary says and calls us. We are to recommit ourselves to a faithful member of the "Body of Christ", as Holy Catholic Christians. When we encounter the Lord, He will acknowledge our listening to His mother Mary whose outstretched hands of love to those in this world yearn for God, "Who is love."

Listen to Mary and live the lessons of Lent!  
Love Fr. Al

**Fr. Chris Alar on Finding Hope After a  
Loved One's Suicide**  
Marian priest Fr. Chris Alar, MIC shares the story behind his new book,

"After Suicide: There's Still Hope for Them and You."

In 1993, Chris' grandmother died by suicide. The family's heartbreak was amplified by what they perceived to be the Church's teaching on suicide. "I had always learned that if you take your own life, it's damnation," he says. "And for years our family never talked about it because no one wanted to have the burden of discussing our grandmother who we believed was in hell." Fr. Chris explains that it wasn't until he started practicing his faith years later that he learned that this was not the teaching of the Church.

"The Catechism tells us not to despair of the eternal salvation of one who has taken their own life. It also says that in ways known to God alone, he can offer the opportunity for solitary repentance. How can God offer an opportunity to repent? ... The words of St. Faustina enlightened me. She was told by Jesus that he comes to the soul three times at the moment of death and give them the opportunity to accept mercy."

Fr. Chris explains that years after his grandmother's death, a priest told him he can still pray for her, "I said 'Father, how? She's already been judged.' And he told me that God is outside of time. There's no past. There's no future. Everything is present eternally at one moment to God. ... God will take my prayer into account for my grandmother at the moment of her death years ago."

Fr. Chris wrote his book to encourage those who have lost loved ones to suicide not to give up hope, and to pray for those who have died. It's impossible to make sense of such a tragedy, but Fr. Chris hopes he can help others navigate the same grief he felt, and find hope after the loss of a loved one. (Original Air 10-31-19)

**If you or a loved one is ever experiencing suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Line +1(800)273-8255. And consult these resources if you are concerned for yourself or another.**

Likewise, the Church teaches that "although we can judge that an act is in itself a grave offense, we must entrust judgment of persons to the justice and mercy of God" (CCC, 1861). In other words, we can know that an act is objectively grave, but we cannot know if it is actually "mortal," because we don't know exactly what someone knew or didn't know about the seriousness of the act, or if their will was entirely free when committing it ...

The *Catechism* addresses this question directly, saying, "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (2282). Read that again. Please, read and reread this declaration of Mother Church. Let it sink into your heart, as if coming from the lips of a tender, loving, and understanding mother. Our beloved's culpability, the responsibility for their action, may be reduced if they experienced "grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture." In the case of suicide, one could even argue that "torture" could apply to mental, not just physical, duress.

I believe that most suicides happen as a result of one or more of those conditions. It seems that my grandmother's did. ...

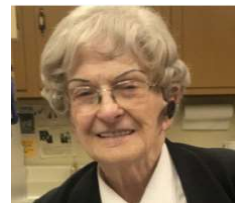
**PRAY FOR US! WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS MORE THAN EVER!!**



Fr. Peter Mary Rookey, OSM  
Oct. 12, 1916 - Sept. 10, 2014  
The Apostle of Compassion



Margaret M. Trosclair  
June 19, 1933 - March 14, 2019



Gertrude Gayle Ponseti  
Oct 14, 1937-Dec 10, 2019

**RENEW Your 2024 SUBSCRIPTION**

**FILL OUT the FORM on Page 3 & SEND IT IN SOON  
YOUR DONATIONS KEEP THIS MINISTRY GOING!**



Patricia Boudreaux, 83 passed away on Friday December 8 2023 in Kokomo. Patricia was one of our angels here at Mary's Helpers. Now she has met the Lord her savior. May she rest in peace. Please pray for Patricia and her family.



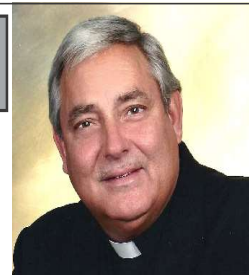
A woman's body is certainly her own responsibility. But, the body inside her womb is not her body. It is the body of another human being. And, this tiny human being has every right to see where their life may take them.

[www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/read-excerpts-after-suicide-theres-hope-them-and-you](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/read-excerpts-after-suicide-theres-hope-them-and-you)





# A word from FATHER PAUL BERGERON



## LENT ~ Liturgical Season for the giving of love

Lent offers us the opportunity to give back to The Lord what he has given us. It is the greatest virtue and that is Love- wholeheartedly and divine. It is no surprise that Lent begins on the same day that we celebrate that gift of Love -Valentine's Day. A day we commemorate those we love and those who love us. All Jesus ask of us is to love one another as He has loved us. Through the love Jesus had for us gave us a way to salvation. His unselfish act was to once and for all fulfill His own Commandment. Lent then asks us the question what can I give back to The Lord for what He has given me and all He asks for is love in return. An unconditional love that sacrifices a part of ourselves. That is why The Catholic Church ask of us to give up something of ourselves during this Lenten Season. What is the best that you can give in return-something that is not easy to do. The greater the sacrifice, the deeper the love is that we give to God. Do not be afraid to do so for even if you fail, you can always start again. This is how we can truly celebrate a great Easter, not only The Resurrection of Christ, but our resurrection from our own selfish ways. May this Easter bring you the Gift of God's love through the actions of His Son, Jesus Christ.

God Bless You-Fr. Paul

Now the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and sent them forth two by two before him into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest. Luke 10:1-2

Will you answer the call of the Lord? Mary's Helpers needs you to help harvest His flock. Volunteer!

### PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

August 30-September 9, 2024

with Spiritual Director Father Paul Bergeron

Assisted by Deacon Bill Betancourt

Register Online at [www.81TOURS.COM/PATTI](http://www.81TOURS.COM/PATTI) or Call (856) 563-4696

for more information \$500 Deposit with balance due by July 1, 2024

Package \$2,970 (double occupancy)

### DAYS TO REMEMBER

Mar 2- Upper Room Prayer Cenacle/Houma

Mar 10- Begin Daylight Saving Time

Mar 17-St Patrick Feast Day

Mar 17-NO Anniversary Mass in Houma

Mar 19-Feast of St Joseph

Mar 24-Palm Sunday

Mar 28- Holy Thursday

Mar 29- Good Friday

Mar 30- Holy Saturday

Mar 31-Easter Sunday

Apr 6- Upper Room Prayer Cenacle/Houma

Apr 7- Divine Mercy Sunday

Apr 8-The Annunciation of the Lord

Apr 17-Houma Anniversary Mass Celebrated

As Margaret and Gayle used to say, make sure you put us between the light and gas bill. Thank you and God Bless You!

### THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

#### THIS YEAR ANNIVERSARY MASS ON APRIL 17

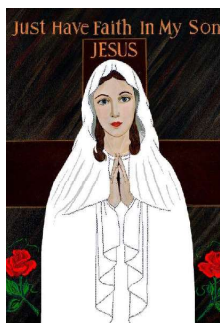
MAR 17 SUN - NO MASS / FALLS ON SUNDAY

APR 17 WED - 3PM CONFESSION & ROSARY 4PM MASS

106 JIM BOWIE ROAD IN HOUMA, LA

CELEBRANT: FATHER PAUL BERGERON

SEE PAGE 7 MORE INFORMATION



### To RENEW Your 2024 SUBSCRIPTION NOW OR MAKE A DONATION

PLEASE Fill Out The Form Below & Mail to Mary's Helpers, P.O. Box 1853, Marrero, LA 70073

JAN/FEB 2024

Thank You for keeping this ministry going!!!

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Please accept my donation to help defray monthly operating costs of Mary's Helpers and to continue to spread Our Lady's messages. (This NEWSletter is made possible through the generosity of your donations.)

\$20  \$30  \$40  \$50  \$75  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Please send me the monthly Mary's Helpers Newsletter...
- \* I already receive the Newsletter...
- \* I cannot donate at this time but I still want the Newsletter...
- \* Send my Newsletter by Email...
- \* I would like to volunteer to help in Mary's Helpers however I can, please contact me...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Mary's Helpers, Inc. PO Box 1853 Marrero, LA 70073

Website: [www.maryshelpers.org](http://www.maryshelpers.org) Email: [maryshelpersi97@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryshelpersi97@bellsouth.net) Phone:(504) 348-PRAY (7729)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1853, Marrero, LA 70073 Physical Address: 4512 7th Street, Marrero, LA 70072

**PRAYERS TO SAINT MONICA TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN BACK TO THE LORD AND THE FAITH (her feast day is Aug 27)**

Pray to Saint Monica for: abuse victims, alcoholics, alcoholism, difficult marriages, disappointing children, homemakers, married women, mothers, victims of adultery, victims of unfaithfulness, victims of verbal abuse, widows

**The Tearful Prayers of St. Monica**

We ought not to be discouraged if our prayers are not immediately granted. For many long years St. Monica prayed for her son's conversion, yet despite her tears and supplications he only fell deeper into sin. One day she went to a bishop and told him her grief. The bishop bade her not to be disheartened, since it was impossible that the child of so many tears and prayers should be lost. His words came true; Augustine was converted and became a great saint. For eighteen years his mother ceased not to pray for him.

Have your children lost their faith? Pray and ask Saint Monica to pray for them... Monica followed her wayward son to Rome, where he had gone secretly; when she arrived he had already gone to Milan, but she followed him. Here she found St. Ambrose and through him she ultimately had the joy of seeing Augustine convert to Christianity, *after praying for her son's conversion for 30 years*. Her deep faith helped bring her son to the Lord. Remember to always persevere in praying for your lost children to come to the Faith, for Our Lord has given them to you to love and protect.

**Prayer to Saint Monica for our Children**

Great St. Monica, patroness of all fathers and mothers, please take our children, especially those who have turned from the ways of God and His Church, under thy protection. Let them always remain faithful to their baptismal vows. Give them the strength to walk always in the ways of the Lord, despite the temptations and false values they find in the world today.

Grant that they may share with thee the joys of eternal life. Amen. (One Our Father, One Hail Mary, One Glory Be)

**Prayer to St. Monica for Serenity in Adversity**

O, glorious St. Monica, after a lifetime of tearful prayers, fasting and sacrifice, thou wert at last granted the happiness of witnessing both thy husband's and son's conversion.

After thy son Augustine returned to the faith thou saidst, "God has granted this to me in more than abundance. What am I still doing here!" A few days later, thou didst die happily in peace with God.

Grant us that same peace, faith and acceptance of God's will that we may live all our years in serenity; pray for our eternal salvation, beloved Patroness. Amen.

SEE ST MONICA PRAYER CARD FEATURED ON PAGE 5

**PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace. Amen

**MASS INTENTIONS REQUEST FORM**

If you would like to offer mass intentions for you or your loved ones, living or deceased, please send us this form. We will be glad to offer these intentions up on our 17th of the month mass in Houma

Intentions offered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name

Prayers for: \_\_\_\_\_

Living or Deceased

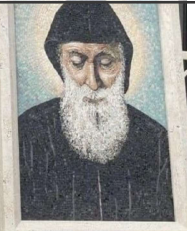
Prayers for: \_\_\_\_\_

Living or Deceased



**Mosaic of Saint Sharbel: in the Vatican**

A mosaic of St. Sharbel blessed by Pope Francis was installed



in the Vatican grottoes located beneath St. Peter's Basilica. On Jan. 19 this year, the vicar general of His Holiness for the Vatican City State, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, participated in placing the framed mosaic in the grotto where the papal tombs are located.

The image of the Lebanese saint, who is revered in both East and West, was blessed by Pope Francis after the Nov. 15, 2023, general audience and was hung next to the tomb of St. Paul VI, the pontiff who declared him a saint on Oct. 9, 1977.

"Cardenal Gambetti decided that it would be the last mosaic placed in the basilica." Devotion to St. Sharbel has spread within Lebanon but also beyond, including to very distant countries with very different cultures. There is particularly strong devotion to the saint in Mexico and other parts of South America. Coinciding with this event at the Vatican, the bells of Maronite churches in Lebanon rang the morning of for five minutes and a Divine Liturgy was also celebrated at the saint's tomb, located in St. Maron monastery in Lebanon. It serves as a quiet reminder of the love and grace of God at work in every time and place



**CHARLINE RICHARD "LIL CAJUN SAINT"**

January 13, 2024, Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel of the Diocese of Lafayette led a ceremony to officially close the diocesan phase of the process for the Cause for Canonization of the Servant of God Charlene Marie Richard. January 13<sup>th</sup> marks Charlene's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"Charlene Richard was born on January 13, 1947. After being diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia, she died on August 11, 1959, at the age of 12. During her last days on earth at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette, Charlene would offer her prayers and suffering to God each day for different people with miraculous results. Since that day, people have come from all over the world to pray at her tomb in Richard, LA with many who have testified to her extraordinary intercession," the post states.

"At this unrepeatable ceremony, prayers accompanying Bishop Deshotel as he closed and blessed the work here in Acadiana in order for her case to be sent to the Vatican. Officials will state under oath that they have honestly and diligently completed their investigation and that now the case is ready for the next stage, for Vatican officials to begin their work," the post states. "Your presence at this ceremony demonstrated to Pope Francis your belief that Charlene's prayers are powerful to so many people in need of help."

The investigation has resulted in a cache of information about Charlene.

"The more than one thousand pages of documents prepared carefully by expert volunteers are now an official record of how Charlene (a pre-teenager, daughter, sister, granddaughter, friend, athlete, cancer patient, hero...) lived a heroic life of Faith, Hope, Love, Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude. With our love and prayers, the pages of this investigation will be entrusted that day to the Official Currier, Father Korey LaVergne, Pastor of Charlene's home parish of St. Edward in Richard, and begins the long journey to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints directly across from Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome," the post states.

"Your presence on January 13 was a plea to Pope Francis to tell the world what so many of us already believe that Charlene Richard is a powerful Saint needed by the world in our day and times as a sign of hope that God loves us and helps us through heavenly witnesses (Rev. 8:4)," the post states.

A new command I give you:  
**LOVE ONE ANOTHER,  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU,  
SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

John 13:34





# MARY'S HELPERS GIFT SHOP

JAN/FEB 2024

STORE Hours are Mon-Fri from 9 am - 3 pm (Closed Wed)

Please remember to add shipping and sales tax where applicable.

To Order: Call Us (504) 348-7729 or Email us at: maryshelpersi97@bellsouth.net



12" St Sharbel Statue \$32.99  
Pray to St Sharbel the miracle worker

## ROSARIES



Sapphire Faceted Glass Ladder Rosary \$19.99



Pardon Crucifix (No Medals) \$3.00

See Article in Last Month's Newsletter about Pardon Crucifix



Holy Family Wall Plaque 7" h x 4" w \$23.99

## STATUES



St. Joseph Day Mar 19

Joseph and Child 32" tall \$129.00 Item G3-73

St Monica Laminated Prayer Card \$.65



(other prayer cards available)

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Made in Italy

ST SHARBEL or PADRE PIO BLESSED OIL available

Rosary Case (Blessed Virgin Mary, Miraculous, OL Grace) \$3.50



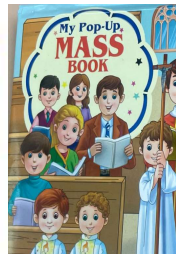
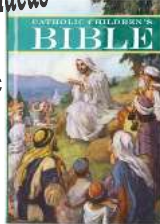
PIETA Prayer Booklet \$2.00



Praying Hands Car Decal 5" x 5" White \$5.00

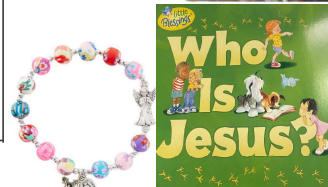
## Holy Communion Ideas

Aquinas Kids® Catholic Children's Bible Hardcover \$25 #G1031



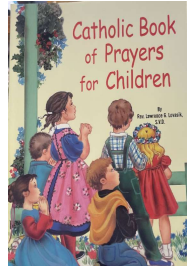
My Pop-Up Mass Book by Thomas Donaghy Has POP UP Pictures \$12.98

Looking for a book for your young one during mass? This is it...

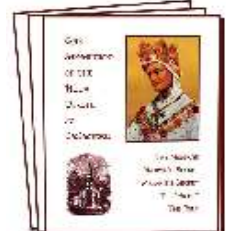


Who Is Jesus? by Kathleen Long Bostrom \$6.50

Do your children know who Jesus is?



Catholic Book of Prayers for Children by Rev Lawrence Lovasik \$6.50 Teach our children how to pray



The Apparition of the Holy Virgin at LaSalette (70pp) Item TBL001 \$3.50

## PIETA

12" Beautiful PIETA White with Wood Base \$39.99



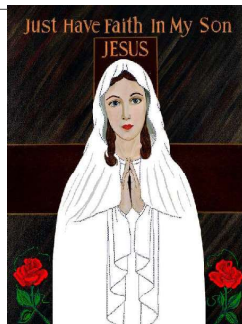
Guardian Angel Flower Rosary Bracelet \$5.00



## OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

Many Healings from praying to Our Lady Just have Faith in My Son Jesus

\$.50 each or In Packs of  
PRAYER CARDS Qty12 = \$5  
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Marie-Julie Jahenny Purple Scapular \$20.00 (House Scapular)



Also Available-Purple Scapular PRAYER CARDS laminated \$2.00

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Most items ship in 2-3 days and arrive within one week to your door. (Please Include: Tax, where applicable below & Shipping Charges, shown above.)



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JAN/FEB 2024

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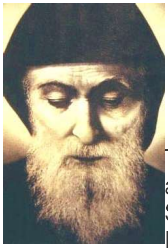
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Shipping Charges (See Above) \$

Gift of a Donation \$

Total Sale \$

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## St. Sharbel Makhlouf

May 8, 1828 -

December 24, 1898

*An Amazing Saint of Miracles*

By Chloe Langr / July 24, 2019

There are over 26,000 miracles attributed to the intercession of Saint Sharbel Makhlouf since his death in 1898. You could say he has a bit of a track record—and he's not slowing down anytime soon.

"We're seeing more miracles in these past two years than we have in the past decade," Father Louis Matar, the Maronite priest who keeps a tally of the saint's miracles said in an interview. St. Sharbel was a Maronite monk and priest who lived in Lebanon. The Christian community in Lebanon remembers the holy man for his miraculous healings and desire to unite Christians and Muslims.

Here are a few incredible miracles attributed to St. Sharbel. These miracles are just a small selection of thousands. To read more about other miracles and find out more about the life of this holy hermit, visit the official website [www.familyofsaintsharbel.org](http://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org)

### The healing of Sister Mary Abel Kamari of the Sacred Hearts

Sister Maria Abel Kamari was a thirty-year old nun who became ill with gastric ulcers in 1936. Despite multiple surgeries, Sister Maria wasn't able to eat. Swallowing became difficult and her voice was weak. In addition to her ulcers, she suffered from osteoporosis, lost her teeth, and her right hand became paralyzed. In 1942, she became bedridden. Eight years later, Sister Maria requested to be taken to Sharbel's tomb.

When she touched the tomb of the hermit, she described what felt like a electric shock go through her body. She stood up unassisted and completely cured. Detailed medical tests

confirmed her miraculous healing. Sister Maria's healing was one of the miracles confirmed by the Catholic Church that led to Sharbel's beatification.

### The healing of Iskander Obeid

In 1925, Iskander Obeid, a blacksmith, was working in his smithy when a piece of metal damaged his eye. After further damage in 1937, Iskander was no longer able to see out of his right eye. Doctors recommended that they remove Iskander's eye. He refused removal, despite the incredible pain. In 1950, he began to intercede to Sharbel for a cure. One night after prayer, Iskander saw Sharbel in a dream. The saint asked Iskander to make a pilgrimage to his monastery in Annaya. When Iskander arrived, he went to confession and Mass. That night, he spent time praying in front of Sharbel's tomb.

The next morning, he awoke and had no pain in his right eye. A medical board later confirmed that Iskander's eye had undergone complete and miraculous healing and regeneration.

Iskander's miracle was one of the miracles that the Catholic Church confirmed during the process of St. Sharbel's beatification.

### The healing of Mariam Awad from Hammana

Mariam Awad was born in Shakra, Izra (in Syria) and lived in Hammana, Lebanon. Between 1963 and 1965, Mariam underwent three surgeries for cancer that spread to her stomach, intestines, and neck. When her tonsils became infected with cancer, Mariam turned to Sharbel. The cancerous growths made swallowing and talking incredibly painful. Mariam asked Sharbel for either a miraculous cure or the grace to bear the suffering. One night she prayed, "Provide me with the cure to this disease. You are a great saint who has cured the blind and the lame. When I recover from this illness, I'll go thank you in your shrine." The next morning, Mariam woke up and was completely cured. Mariam's miraculous cure was the miracle that led to Sharbel's canonization in 1977.

One of St. Sharbel's most well-known miracles is the healing of Nohad El Shami. She was fifty-five years old and healed from her partial paralysis in 1993.

Nohad says that she saw two Maronite monks standing next to her bed in a dream one evening. In her dream, the monks operated on her neck. When Nohad woke up, she had two wounds in her neck. She was completely healed and began to walk again. Nohad said that St. Sharbel appeared to her the next night in a dream and asked her to visit his hermitage on the 22nd of every month. He also asked her to attend Mass regularly. The 22nd of each month has since become a popular day to visit St. Sharbel's hermitage to pray and celebrate Mass.

### The miraculous healing of Dafne Gutierrez's vision

Dafne Gutierrez suffered from Arnold Chiari malformation for seventeen years. The malformation had resulted in total blindness, awful headaches, seizures, and vomiting. The mother of three was unable to take care of her children and doctors approved for her to go to a nursing home and rehabilitation facility. But Sharbel had other plans.

Dafne visited St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church in Phoenix to venerate Sharbel's relics. The saint's remains were on a tour of thirty-six Maronite parishes in the United States. Just a few days after venerating the relics, Dafne's vision was restored. "God gave me my vision back for a reason." Dafne said in an interview, "I want to be able to help others. I'll give testimony wherever I can because it's important for people to know that God does exist and he does hear us. I tell people, 'Don't lose the faith. And the most important of all is confession, which brings you healing.'"



## The Life of Mary

Continued

### The Childhood of Jesus

Now the time of perils and exile was past, and the

Holy Family entered on a long period of peace and secure happiness. "The child grew and became strong," the evangelist tells us. "He was full of wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him."

He chose to follow the pattern of the nature He had assumed, and Mary lovingly watched the development of His faculties. He was about old enough to walk when they settled in Nazareth. We may imagine Him then attempting His first steps with Mary's help. Soon, no doubt, He was standing at her knee, learning to lisp the precepts of the Law and the feats of His ancestor David and of other heroes of Israel. These elements, we learn from the Jewish historian Josephus, were basic in the education of Jewish children.

The way of life of the Holy Family was modest but comfortable. Their home, small and compact, probably included only a few rooms. One room

served as living and dining room during the day, and at night, when mats had been spread on the floor, became the sleeping place of the little family.

St Joseph is usually described as a carpenter, but the word which we translate "carpenter" is actually a more comprehensive term and might include such types of woodworking as the building of furniture as well as the construction of carts, and of plows and other farm implements. While he was at work (probably in the common courtyard which they shared with a number of other families), Mary was busy with her household chores. Besides the customary cooking and cleaning, she had to make a daily trip for water to the little fountain in the village square. Then there were the task of gathering firewood and collecting herbs on the hills outside the village. Undoubtedly, she often took Jesus with her on these excursions into the countryside and showed him the beauty of the Galilean Hills and the splendor of snowcapped Hermon, gleaming like white fire on the northern horizon.

It is not unlikely that Mary wove all of their clothing. One legend relates that these garments, like those worn by the Israelites during their years in the desert, never wore out. Moreover, those which Mary made for the infant Christ are said to have miraculously increased in size as he grew older. Such a garment,

the legend tells us, was the seamless tunic stripped from Christ on Calvary.

Paintings of the childhood of Christ often picture St. Anne with Mary and Jesus; the subject is attractive but if early sources are correct, both St. Anne and St. Joachim had died before the return from Egypt.

### Mary finds Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was 12 years old He became a "son of the precept," and was obliged (whereas He had formerly been permitted) to go with His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover. At the conclusion of the feast, when His parents left with the other pilgrims for their homes, Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph continued their journey and did not discover His absence until the end of the day. Then, in utter distress, they returned to the city and began searching for Him. They found Him on the third day, speaking with a group of teachers in one of the temple courts and amazing them with His learning. When Mary told Him of their anguish, He gently reminded them of His mission "How is it that you sought me? Did not you know that I must be about my Father's business?" Continued Next Newsletter





# 28th ANNIVERSARY MASS AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

FR PAUL BERGERON  
celebrant of the Holy Mass on  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th  
at 106 Jim Bowie Road, Houma, LA

The very site of the Apparition of Our Blessed Mother  
on March 17, 1996 under the title of  
Our Lady of Compassionate Protection

Confessions & Rosary 3:00 p.m. / Mass 4:00 p.m.

### ALL ARE WELCOME...

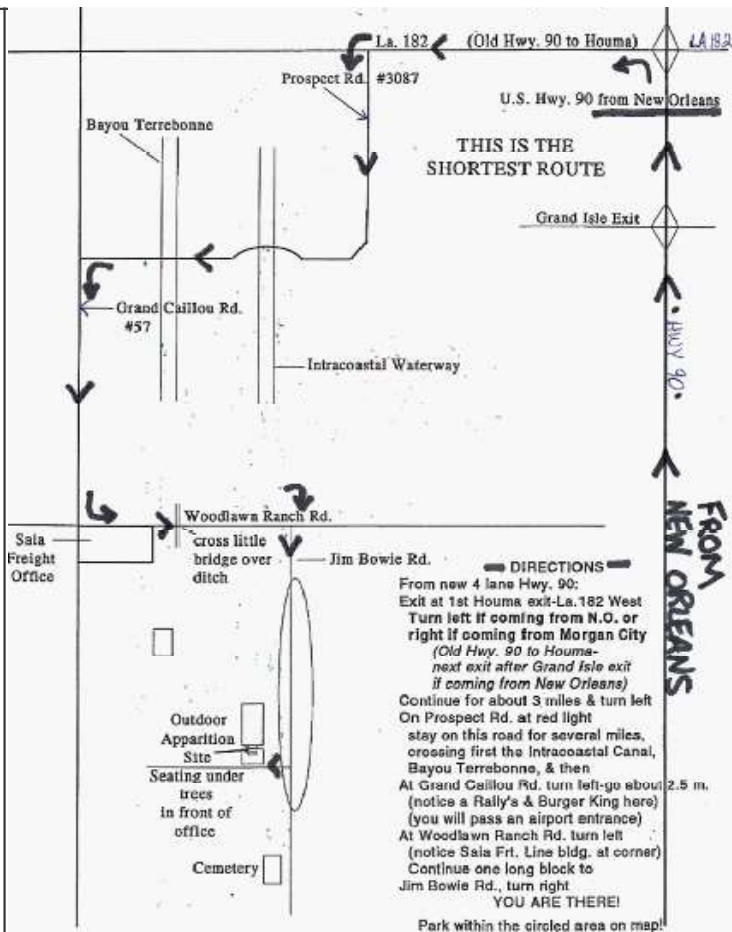
You are invited to a special event happening in Houma, LA. A place where our Mother Mary appeared to a man that was in need of conversion, Louis Saia. She knew him better than he knew himself. She appeared to him here and changed his life forever. These are the words she spoke to him...

**"JUST HAVE FAITH IN MY SON JESUS"**

If only we had one mustard seed of faith and believed that we can be healed by our Lord Jesus, he would answer our prayers.

**"JUST HAVE FAITH!!" Mary said**

These few words changed Louis' life forever. Since the beginning, 28 years ago, many healings have taken place here and with prayer to Our Lady. Our very own Father Paul Bergeron was healed of stage 4 cancer when prayed upon here. Many other healings have been documented also. And don't forget our Anniversary Mass which is always special with Louis Saia there. Come out and pray with us and ask God to protect you and our whole world from all evil. Nothing is impossible with God. Hope to see you there



### POWERFUL PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires.

Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me! Amen.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail, so be sure you really want what you ask.

(Don't forget Tuesday March 19, 2024 is St Joseph's Day. Go visit all your local altars. So much work goes into those, you have to see them. They are beautiful.)

### LENT: A SEASON OF PREPARATION

"Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life." - Pope Francis

1. Attend Sunday Mass as a Family
2. Bring back the custom of family dinner especially on Sunday
3. Make a special effort to get to church before Mass begins and read over the prayers and readings of the day.
4. At Mass pick up the hymnal and attempt to sing along
5. Don't rush out of Mass after receiving Holy Communion
6. Say the Rosary more frequently
7. Take 10 minutes each day for reading scripture, the life of a saint or a spiritual book.
8. Attend a weekday Mass in addition to your Sunday obligation.
9. Spend Time in Eucharistic Adoration
10. Get more involved in your Parish church, by offering to be a greeter, usher, collector, reader, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, altar server, member of a parish organization.
11. Consider increasing your weekly church contribution.
12. Say only the good things people need to know, things that will really be helpful.
13. Speak to Jesus in your own words upon waking and upon retiring.
14. Start a spiritual journal.



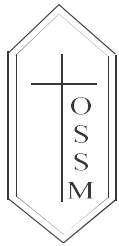
**37  
YEARS**

THANKS TO ALL  
WHO HELPED  
CELEBRATE  
MARY'S  
HELPERS 37th  
YEAR OF

SHARING OUR BLESSED MOTHER'S MESSAGES  
TO THE WORLD. WE COULDN'T  
DO THIS WITHOUT YOU OUR VOLUNTEERS!!  
Past, Present and Future Volunteers THANK YOU.

### Let's Laugh a Little On the Road

A state trooper saw a vehicle on the interstate doing just 33 mph and pulled the car over to make sure everything was allright. When he approached the driver, he discovered that it was a nun. "Excuse me, sister. But are you all right?" She replied: "Oh yes officer. We're just fine. Was I doing something wrong?" "Well sister, the officer said, "you were traveling way under the speed limit and I was worried that you were having car trouble or something". "But officer, the nun interrupted, "I saw a sign about a mile back that said 33 and I know I wasn't going any faster than that". Chuckling, the trooper said: "Sister, that was a state highway route marker, this is Route 33. That's not the speed limit. The speed limit must have a MPH at the bottom". "Oh, now don't I feel foolish!" the nun replied, turning red. "That's OK, chuckled the trooper, but please try to be more careful. I would hate to see you get hurt". As he turned to say goodbye to the nuns in the back seat, he noticed for the first time that they were trembling and appeared pale. "Sister, what is wrong with your friends? Can I escort you to a hospital?" "Oh, no, they're all right," she chortled, "We just pulled off Route 150".



Servants of Mary  
St. Anthony Pucci Community  
Marrero, La  
Secular Servites of Louisiana  
Mar 17 / Apr 21 at  
2 pm Formation 2:30 pm  
Priores: Isabel Bertot  
For information call (504) 908-7795

MARY'S HELPERS CHAPEL AND GIFT SHOP NOW OPEN!  
COME BY AND SEE US OR CALL US (504) 348-7729.  
MON - FRI (CLOSED WED) 9 am - 2:30 pm  
Call us for a Prayer Request Anytime-Option 1



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
4401 7th St., Marrero LA  
Phone: 504-341-9516  
**Fr. Stephen Leake, Pastor**  
Confession Fri 5:00-5:45pm Sat 2:30-3:30pm  
Sat Vigil 4:00pm Sun 8:00am 10:00am,  
Sun 12:00 (Español), 6pm

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**JESUS  
WE TRUST IN YOU!**

The NEWS is published by Mary's Helpers to help spread the messages of Our Lady all over the country and the world.

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St Joseph  
Feast Day  
Wed Mar 20

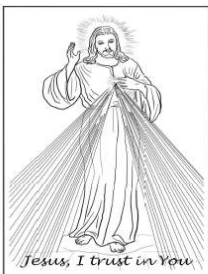
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Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de enero de 2024  
"¡Queridos hijos! Que este tiempo sea un tiempo de oración."

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
Solemn Celebration  
April 7, 2024



The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depth of tenderness. It is My Desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners.

On that day, the soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.

Jesus to St. Faustina #599

Most Rev. Alfred C. Hughes, Celebrant  
Archbishop Emeritus of New Orleans  
1:00 – Sacrament of Reconciliation  
1:30 – Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary  
2:20 – Divine Mercy Chaplet  
3:00 – Holy Mass

Blessing with First Class Relic of St. Faustina after Mass

**St. Joseph's Church**  
1802 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA

Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de febrero de 2024  
"¡Queridos hijos! Oren y renueven su corazón para que el bien que han sembrado dé frutos de alegría y de unión con Dios. La cizaña se ha apoderado de muchos corazones y se han vuelto estériles. Por eso ustedes, hijitos, sean luz, amor y mis manos extendidas en este mundo que anhela a Dios que es amor. Gracias por haber respondido a mi llamado."



**PRAYER EVERY TUESDAY-NOON**

JOIN US IN OUR LIL CHAPEL IN MARRERO  
JUST ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME FOR GOD  
at Mary's Helpers  
at 4512 7th Street, Marrero, LA  
Across from Immaculate Conception Church  
Noon til 1pm  
Mary is asking us to Pray! Pray! Pray!



MARY'S HELPERS DONATIONS  
CAN NOW BE DONE ONLINE AT  
www.maryshelpers.org

**PERSONAL PRAYER LINE  
INTENTIONS**  
(504) 348-PRAY (7729)

**Ave Maria Shrine**  
3484 Prairie Ronde Hwy, Opelousas, LA

Every First Saturday Begin 3 pm  
4 Rosaries & Way of the Cross

Our Lady's Presence has been  
promised this day at 6:00-6:05pm



**MAGNIFICAT  
WESTBANK BREAKFAST  
SATURDAY**

9:00 a.m. - Noon

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25, 2024-Visitation-Sr Sueellen Tennyson  
August 10, 2024 Assumption-Fr Steve Leake  
November 16, 2024 Presentation of Mary-  
Janice Charbonnet

Advance Ticket Sales Only- \$20

Call Cindy Delger 504-319-6788

Westbank ReligSupply, 504-341-6558

or Mary's Helpers 504-348-7729