



Holy Apostles
College & Seminary

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INTO THE DEEP

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
Newsletter

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SPRING
SEMESTER

TO GOD'S DIVINE MERCY

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

May the “grace, mercy, and peace...from God the Father and from Jesus Christ be with you, in truth and love” (2 John 1:3), students and alumni of the Holy Apostles Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) program! I am delighted to present the first issue of the MAPS department newsletter, “Into the Deep” (Luke 5:4). This inaugural issue is dedicated to the Holy Face of Jesus, whose feast we celebrate on Shrove Tuesday.

On January 6, 2001, Pope Saint John Paul II promulgated his Apostolic Letter, Novo Millennio Ineunte [At the Beginning of the New Millennium]. In this document, he highlights the passage from the Gospel according to Saint Luke. “Duc in altum...put out into the deep for a catch” (Luke 5:4; NMI #1).

Recall the story. Jesus was teaching the people from Simon Peter’s fishing boat. He was a short distance from shore. Using the water around Him as a natural microphone, Christ’s words filled the air and penetrated the minds and hearts of His listeners, setting them on fire with divine love.

After teaching the people, Jesus asks Peter to “put out into the deep and let down [his] nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4). Weary and discouraged from fishing all night with no results, Peter places his trust in Christ Jesus. Needless to say, their catch was so great that their nets were at the breaking point (Luke 5:5-7). “Putting out into the deep” for that miraculous catch of fish is where our newsletter gets its name. For we, too, having listened to Christ’s words in our MAPS studies, must then “put out into the deep” with Him, in trust and prayer, before we can bring Him to others.

The MAPS program at Holy Apostles is the interconnected “hands-on” practical theology program that today’s Catholic needs for everyday living of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. With the MAPS program, you learn to put mercy into action as clergy, religious, laity, parents, teachers, catechists, apologists, hospital chaplains, spiritual directors, parish RCIA and religious education administrators, diocesan directors and pastoral counselors. Many of our students spread the new evangelization by putting the corporal and spiritual works of mercy into action through marriage and family ministries, youth and young adult ministries, bereavement ministries, prison ministries, soup kitchens, prayer ministries, Bible studies, and more.

The MAPS program assists today’s Catholic in responding to the Second Vatican Council’s universal call to holiness as a member of the clergy, religious, or laity as we work together to build up the Kingdom of God. As Pope Saint John Paul II teaches, sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ “cannot be left to a group of ‘specialists,’ but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God. Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep Him for themselves; they must proclaim Him” to everyone with whom they come in contact in one’s parish, family, workplace, community, and society at large (Novo Millennio Ineunte #40).

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ENCOURAGE THE
SOULS WITH WHOM
YOU COME IN
CONTACT TO TRUST IN
MY INFINITE MERCY.
OH, HOW I LOVE THOSE
SOULS WHO HAVE
COMPLETE
CONFIDENCE IN ME - I
WILL DO EVERYTHING
FOR THEM.

JESUS CHRIST TO
SAINT FAUSTINA,
DIARY #294

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Because Pastoral Studies is so closely tied to God's divine Mercy, I would like to invite you to join me in consecrating the MAPS department to Divine Mercy. From wherever you are on the globe, consider joining me in praying the Divine Mercy Novena, which begins on Good Friday.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter, we spiritually consecrate and present the MAPS department to Christ's Divine Mercy. After making the Divine Mercy Novena from Good Friday to Easter Saturday, consider praying the following prayer on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Eternal Father, through Your Beloved Son, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I spiritually join my prayers to others in MAPS asking You to accept and bless this consecration to Divine Mercy. Help me to be a beacon of light for others as I strive to practice mercy by my prayers, words, and deeds. I ask for these things in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Merciful Redeemer. Amen.

Thank you for being part of our
MAPS family!

ACCESS THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

<https://divinemercury.life/the-divine-mercy-novena/>



As I work to complete my MA in Pastoral Studies, I am also volunteering as a bereavement chaplain at my parish and I lead the bereavement support group once a week. I volunteer with WARM (Wilmington Area Rebuild Ministry) by helping both in the office and on-site with repairs for people who are unable to afford needed upkeeps to their homes. Not too long ago, I learned how to prepare sub-flooring and to lay linoleum! I believe in being involved in the community and serving others, and I am deeply grateful for the education I am receiving at Holy Apostles.

Joyce Wilson



THE SERVANTS OF THE PIERCED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY INVITE YOU TO OUR
IV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST: BE NOT AFRAID!

For more information, please see:

https://piercedhearts.org/sctjm/congress2020/congress_jp2_mainpage.html



A Nine Day Divine Mercy Novena

Jesus revealed to Saint Maria Faustina a nine day novena that He desired be prayed in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday.

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As a priest this [course] helped me to grow more spiritually spending more time in personal prayer, adoration, which ultimately strengthened my faith and vocation.” -Fr. Valan, Florida

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In 2015 I began my journey with Holy Apostles College and Seminary and entered the Online Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) with a concentration in marriage and family. Little did I know that I would embark upon such a journey and be united with other students who fervently sought the beauty, goodness and truth of our Catholic Faith. The journey that I thought I would take alone transformed into one that was both mutual and profound.

The students and professors in my courses challenged me to not only more fully comprehend the magisterial teachings of the Church and its history, but also to embrace meaning, intimacy and virtue in my own marriage and family life. Every course I took resounded Catholic orthodoxy and authentic pastoral approaches towards the challenges that face marriage and family in the world today. The online discussion assignment posts were most significant during my studies. I had many opportunities to interact with my fellow students to discuss key concepts and best practices in the ministry of marriage and family. Posts submitted by my classmates and myself contributed to a better understanding of how we could foster in others and in ourselves a more joy-filled and abundant Christian life.

I encourage all those discerning to take the time to research, reflect, and apply to the MAPS Program at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. As a husband and a stay-at-home father of six children for the last five years, I was able, by the grace of God, to succeed in my studies and to embark upon a new journey with my family and the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary Joseph. Yes, during my studies I had my share of challenges in balancing family life and academic life, but I also discovered, with the support of my peers and my professors, that God had a joyful ministry that not only I, but my entire family was to share. The Second Vatican Council Fathers declared, “Families too will share their spiritual riches generously with other families” (Gaudium et Spes, n.48).

Today, my wife, children and I are reaching out in unison to engage one family at a time through our new organization called Familiaris Consortio Catholic Foundation. Our ministry hopes to share with other families the communion of life and love with which God has blessed us.

My time at Holy Apostles College and Seminary will always be a memorable one of faith, hope and love, and I thank all those I have encountered in the MAPS program who have encouraged me to embark on this new and exciting journey of family-to-family ministry. Through the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph may you, too, be blessed on the journey God has planned for you.

Allan Francis Cruz, Ba.Th., M.A.P.S.

Founder and Director of Familiaris Consortio Catholic Foundation

www.fccatholicfoundation.org

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OH BLESSED FACE OF MY KIND
SAVIOR, BY THE TENDER LOVE
AND PIERCING SORROW OF
OUR LADY AS SHE BEHELD YOU
IN YOUR CRUEL PASSION,
GRANT US TO SHARE IN THIS
INTENSE SORROW AND LOVE
SO AS TO FULFILL THE HOLY
WILL OF GOD TO THE UTMOST
OF OUR ABILITY. AMEN.

PRAYER OF
MOTHER MARIA PIERINA

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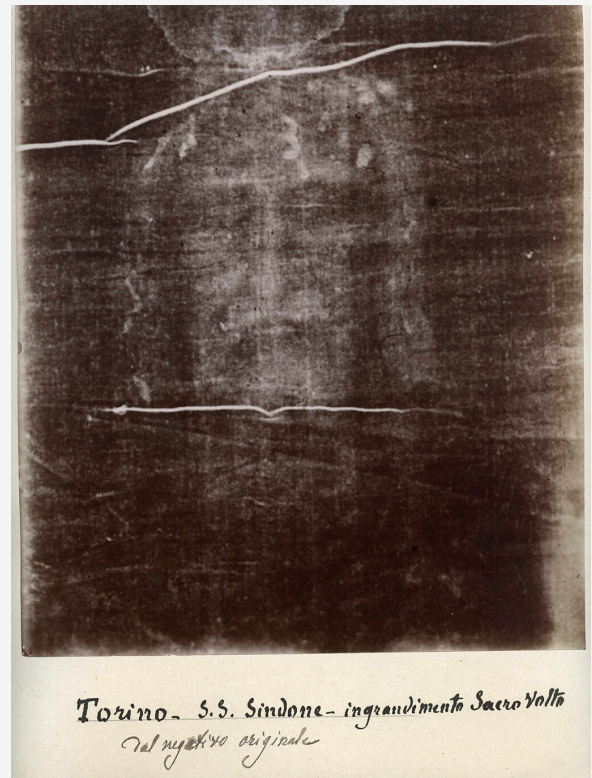


PHOTO BY SECUNDO PIA - MUSÉE DE L'ÉLYSÉE,
RUDOLFINUM, PUBLIC DOMAIN

During these first two semesters of my Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) at the Holy Apostles College and Seminary, I have come to better understand and appreciate the true meaning of my priestly ministry. I have just finished only two courses out of twelve. I could have never imagined the kind of joy and the passion it has brought me in exercising my own priestly duties! I have come to believe that Holy Apostles College and Seminary is one of the best institutions ever known to the world. Holy Apostles has not only given me knowledge, but also the practical tools with which to bring hope to a world of hopelessness and longing.

As priests and pastoral agents, it is incumbent upon us to be equipped with practical tools, and not just theories, in order to deal with the challenges of this contemporary world. I have worked for sixteen years in the priestly ministry and I have never experienced the joy and the passion and the love that I now have for Jesus and for the people of God!

Based upon my studies at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, I recommend this institution as one of the best and cost-effective institutions I have ever come to know. Holy Apostles College and Seminary will make a difference in your ministry as a priest or a pastoral agent.

-Fr. Dominic, British Columbia, Canada

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I HAVE BEEN "PLANNING" TO GET AN ADVANCED DEGREE FOR DECADES, BUT THE NEEDS OF MY GROWING FAMILY HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN PRECEDENCE. TAKING CLASSES ONLINE THROUGH HOLY APOSTLES HAS BEEN A REAL GOD-SEND AND I AM FINALLY ON TRACK TO COMPLETE MY MASTERS DEGREE. I WON'T SAY THAT TRANSITIONING BACK INTO THE ROLE OF STUDENT AFTER THREE DECADES OUT OF THE CLASSROOM WAS EASY, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY DO-ABLE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE ONLINE COMMUNITY, CARING PROFESSORS AND FAITHFUL TEACHING.

SUE, NY

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Numerous Holy Apostles students and their families were able to attend this year's historic March for Life in Washington, D.C.

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