



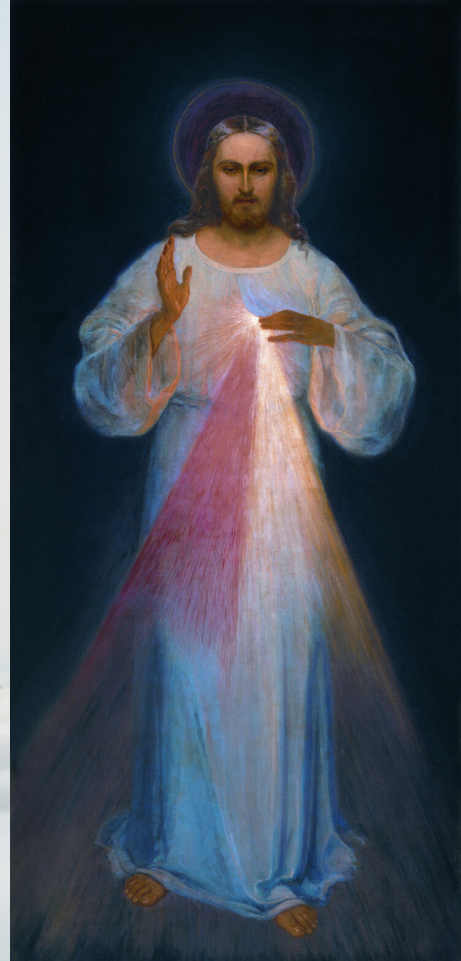
Holy Apostles  
College & Seminary

SUMMER 2020 | VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

# INTO THE DEEP

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies Newsletter

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SUMMER  
SEMESTER

## THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

"In God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace" (1 Thess. 1:1)! While most of the world is still feeling the effects of the coronavirus, we continue to join our sufferings, inconveniences, and sorrows to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary in reparation for sin and for the conversion of sinners.

I would like to offer a profound expression of my gratitude to those of you who joined in the consecration of the MAPS Department to Divine Mercy on April 19, 2020, which was Divine Mercy Sunday. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, it was a huge success and a glorious day, for we are all united in Christ.

If you were not able to join in the consecration on Divine Mercy Sunday, please feel free to offer a prayer any time. The following one suffices.

"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."

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“Only the Heart of Christ who knows the depths of His Father’s love could reveal to us the abyss of His mercy in so simple and beautiful a way.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1439

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The month of June is traditionally devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is celebrated on a Friday, nineteen days after Pentecost. On the following day, the Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To honor them, this newsletter is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Solemnities of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus go hand-in-hand. As Pope Pius XII teaches in his Encyclical on the Sacred Heart, “that Heart is the Eucharist, which He gave to us out of the great charity of His own Heart” (Pius XII, Haurietis Aquas #122). The Holy Father identifies the Holy Eucharist with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the Eucharist is the “sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is eaten, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us” (Vatican II, Sacrosanctum Concilium #47).

To make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for offenses and abuses committed against the Holy Eucharist, the feast of the Sacred Heart was instituted after the Octave of Corpus Christi. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary this year, let us continually give them thanks for the countless blessings we have received through them from our Heavenly Father.

For more on devotion to the Sacred Heart, including “The Popes on Devotion to the Sacred Heart” and various Magisterial documents on the topic, please see Month of the Sacred Heart from Catholic Culture.org. For more on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, see the short article on The Immaculate Heart of Mary, also by Catholic Culture.org.



URBAN  
HEARTS



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# URBAN HEARTS MISSIONS

By Josef Rutz

Hello fellow MAPS students! My name is Josef Rutz and I am a life-long Catholic from Anchorage, Alaska. Anchorage, like many urban populations, has a huge problem with homelessness. As such, the Church in Alaska is very zealous about serving the poor. Over the past few years, I have developed a deep passion for this ministry, especially in the context of caring for our homeless friends on the street. That is what led me to start Urban Hearts Missions.

Urban Hearts is a lay apostolate based out of Anchorage that focuses on relational ministry with the homeless. We are a community of Catholic missionaries that are dedicated to creating intentional, loving, and healthy relationships with our friends on the street. Like many lay apostolate movements, Urban Hearts implements a training program for its missionaries that encompasses four main areas of formation - the human, the intellectual, the spiritual, and the apostolic. This is what led me to begin my studies at Holy Apostles.

In the Fall of 2019, I enrolled in the MAPS program with a special concentration in Spiritual Direction. My goal is to better equip myself for the formation of our missionaries so that they can go out into the world and offer mercy, love, and friendship to those who are most in need of it. If you would like to learn more about our program, donate to our mission, or contact us for further information, please visit our website at [urbanhearts.org](http://urbanhearts.org)!



Our Street Teams serving our Friends on the Street



All photos on this page belong to Urban Hearts Missions, Inc. All rights reserved.



Our Street Teams serving our Friends on the Street

## THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR MAPS FAMILY!

Please send comments or submissions to Dr. Siegmund at [msiegmund@holypostles.edu](mailto:msiegmund@holypostles.edu)



Photo by Francesca Morris; All rights reserved.

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“Thank you for taking such care in designing this course...it is an absolute WEALTH of information!...I have been using your Recommended Readings and other source materials for spiritual reading! Please know of my continued prayers and the prayers of all the Sisters.”

Sr. Gianna Grace, SCTJM

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## COVID-19 AND YOUR FAITH

By Fr. Dominic Apaatah

I received a text message from a young man recently. “Please give spiritual advice and hope to help [my] mental health. I’m not well, Father.” When I asked for clarification, he texted me back. “The pandemic is affecting me. I’m having panic attacks, anxiety and depression. I feel like it’s [the] end times.”

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a lot of fear, panic and insecurity among many people across the globe. Many are of the view that it is a punishment imputed to us by God due to sins committed. I don’t think so. However, there are two things for consideration.

(1) Natural cause: This pandemic could be a natural disaster like a hurricane, tornado, day time and night time, which have nothing to do with man as their cause.

(2) Human cause: Using the phrase, “human cause,” I am not saying that man was directly involved in the outbreak of this pandemic, but man is directly involved in matters regarding free choice.

Any evil is the result of the abuse of the incredible gift of free will that God has given to each one of us. God did not create evil. All that He created was very good ([Genesis 1:31](#)). God, however, permits us to choose freely as part of His love for humanity. It was the exercise of free choice that brought evil into the world by our first parents, Adam and Eve. The human cause, as a possible factor for the outbreak of this pandemic, is the lack of cooperating with God’s will. It is due to the wrong use of one’s human free will.

God created us to know and to love Him. But to truly love Him we must make good free choices. It is when we choose against His will that evil emerges. Therefore, evil is the absence of good, just as darkness is the absence of light.



Whether the pandemic resulted from a natural or a human cause, there is one thing I know. Evil will never triumph over good. God's promise is everlasting and He is faithful. Nothing can distort the plan of God. When the devil deceived man, God immediately made a promise, called the "Protoevangelium," which announced the coming of the Messiah ([Genesis 3:15](#)).

God, being all-powerful and good, causes greater good to emerge from evil. The Church teaches that, "God in His almighty providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by His creatures." Quoting the sale of Joseph in the Old Testament by his brothers, the Catechism teaches that "It was not you... who sent me here, but God...You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" ([CCC #312](#)). We also see this same outrageous treatment meted out to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and it brought about the redemption and salvation of humankind.



Photo by Francesca Morris.  
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Let's get back to "Mr. X" and his fears of the "end times." The end time, as far as I know, has two dimensions. First, it could refer to the end of the world. Second, it could refer to the end of one's life in this world.

What is the big deal about these two kinds of the end time? Saint Paul exhorts the Church at Rome that whether they die or whether they live, they still belong to the Lord ([Romans 14:8](#)). So far as we are waiting for the "end time" to come, our duty is to live our Catholic Faith diligently and to persevere to the end of our lives, or to the end of the world—whichever comes first.

Now is the time to trust the Lord and to stay focused. Should we believe God permitted the pandemic as a result of our sins, let us approach the throne of grace to plead for His mercy.

Saint Paul says, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" ([Romans 8:18](#)). I am sure that the benefits derived from COVID-19 will far outweigh the losses. In terms of material losses, we will soon recover them, for Job, in the Scriptures, lost everything, and yet he received them back in folds. In the area of loss of life, we believe that these loved ones of ours are not dead. They need our prayers, and we can ask that God pour out His mercy on them.

In conclusion, take consolation from this text: "And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians [COVID-19] whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have to be still'" ([Exodus 14:13-14](#)).

Be still!



St. Corona by the Master of the Palazzo Venezia Madonna in the National Gallery of Denmark; Public Domain

Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP, has produced a collection of essays entitled, *Among the Marvelous Things: The Media of Social Communications and the Next Generation of Pastoral Ministers* (En Route Books and Media, 2020) written by ministerial students at St. Joseph's Seminary-Dunwoodie, Aquinas Institute of Theology, and Holy Apostles College & Seminary. When Saint John Paul II "suggested" in *Redemptoris Missio* (1990) that instruction in the use of mass media be decisively inserted into programs of pastoral formation, he was affirming a half-century of communications leadership on the part of the Catholic Church. The Second Vatican Council's *Inter Mirifica* (1963) provided the mandate to establish the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (now the Dicastery for Communication) and the context for all the World Communications Day messages that followed from 1967 to the present year. As with any teaching that requires an active response, what remains for pastoral ministers is to develop a plan and make it happen. This book, written by the next generation of pastoral ministers currently preparing for pastoral leadership, opens a window into the future use of social media for the purpose of evangelization. Details about the collection may be found on En Route's website at <https://enroutebooksandmedia.com/marvelousthings/>.

Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP, is working with Vatican sculptor Timothy Schmalz and Holy Apostles MA in Philosophy student Daniel Fitzpatrick on a new illustrated translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy* for the purpose of helping Dante Alighieri help Italy during this time of coronavirus, the latest plague to attack the Italian cities and countryside. The project is a proactive effort to provide help to the marginalized and dispossessed in a technological age where it's easier than ever to do something in one part of the world and improve the lives of those in other parts of the world. Monies raised go to the support of the Hospital of the Holy Spirit in Rome and to the Migrants and Refugees office of the Vatican under the care of Cardinal Czerny. Details about the project may be found on En Route's website at <https://enroutebooksandmedia.com/helpdantehelpitaly/>



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