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College & Seminary

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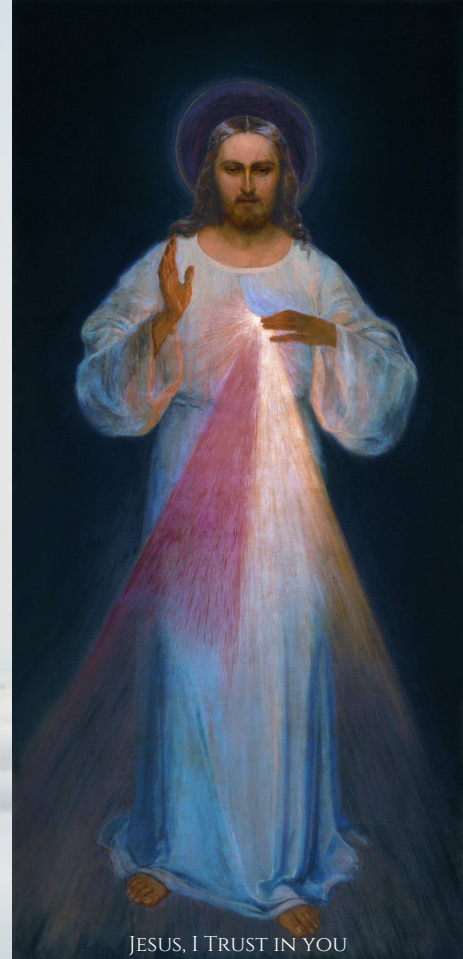
# INTO THE DEEP

LUKE 5:4

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies and  
Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization Newsletter

Theology for the Heart

Cover photo by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski (1873-1939); Accessed 12/5/21 <http://www.cisza2.krakow.dominikanie.pl>, Public Domain,  
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SEMESTER 2021  
FALL

## MASTER OF DIVINITY IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

May Jesus Christ our King and Savior be praised, now and forever!

Since we are in the holy season of Advent, this issue of *Into the Deep* is dedicated to the Second Coming of Christ. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we likewise ponder Christ's Second Coming in glory. Together with the Evangelist, let us pray, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come" (Apocalypse 4:8).

In November, Holy Apostles enthusiastically announced the institution of a new degree program: the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization (M.Div./NE). Since the M.Div./NE is integrally connected to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS), *Into the Deep* now includes short articles, announcements and events for both programs.

How are the M.Div./NE and the MAPS programs related? First, since both programs seek to build up the Church by putting faith into action, both programs are consecrated to God's Divine Mercy. In the spring semester, on the Second Sunday of Easter, which Saint John Paul II named as Divine Mercy Sunday, we will consecrate the M.Div./NE program to Divine Mercy and we will renew our annual consecration of the MAPS department. I have selected Divine Mercy for both (continued on page 2)



Greek icon of the Second Coming, c. 1700; Anonymous, Greece - <http://ikona.orthodoxy.ru/icon.php?source=source36/53>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3229269>

(continued from page 1) programs since apostolic service to the Church highlights the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Another similarity between the programs is that they both prepare the student for bringing theology to the person in the pew. Both degrees involve solid intellectual knowledge and a practical application of that knowledge in order to serve the people of today. In other words, both degrees strive to form the student in “head” knowledge and “heart” knowledge for the purpose of apostolic service.

In order to prepare the student for service to Holy Mother Church, one must be formed in each area: the “head” (intellectual formation), the “heart” (spiritual formation) and the “hands” (human and pastoral formation). One’s intellect is formed especially through coursework. The heart receives spiritual formation by being patterned after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for He says, “learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble

of Heart” (Matthew 11:29). The hands receive formation through attention to various transformative human and pastoral initiatives that will be a hallmark for both programs. An exciting and practical feature of the M.Div./NE program, therefore, involves ten hours of growth in the areas of human, spiritual and pastoral formation. MAPS students who begin their degree in the summer semester of 2022 and beyond, will undertake, as part of their program requirements, five hours in each area of human, spiritual and pastoral formation. Our new and present MAPS students are warmly welcome to partake in all formation initiatives as they wish. Formation hours are easy to accomplish and specifically detailed in the M.Div./NE Handbook.

As the Director of the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization program, I will be contacting each person in the first cohort once the spring semester begins. I look forward to welcoming our first cohort for the M.Div./NE program and I anticipate with joy increased voluntary involvement from our new and present MAPS students.

I wish you and your loved ones the graces and blessings of Advent and a joyous Christmas season!



The Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization is a groundbreaking new program, uniquely crafted to equip Catholic men and women of all backgrounds for twenty-first century ministry and evangelization. Apply today!

Dr. Andrew Blaski, Chief Academic Officer



# AM I A MESSENGER OF MERCY OR OF JUDGMENT?

BY ABUNE MENGHESTEAB TESFAMARIAM, ARCHBISHOP OF ASMARA, ERITREA

(This article is Part II. For Part I, please see *Into the Deep*, Vol. 2. No. 2 (Summer 2021).

Jonah was in a sense deceived by his appertaining to the chosen people of Israel. At that time the belief was that only the people of God were worthy of salvation. The rest were doomed to damnation because they were not member of the elected ones. Moreover, as Nineveh was a powerful pagan city that oppressed many other people, including those in Israel, he was probably not sad to see its demise. In this case he preferred to be more the prophet of doom rather than the prophet of hope and conversion.

It was so nice to see Pope Francis institute a movement of the “Missionaries of Mercy” in the Year of Mercy 2016-2017. He nominated ten of such priests in our Church here in Eritrea, including two HACS MA students in the persons of Abba Berhe Rufael and Abba Merhawi Habtay. Any pastoral agent is supposed to be a messenger of God’s infinite mercy to all people who are ready to listen to the call of God to conversion. The messenger cannot and should not make distinctions based on race, gender, and social status. And, if any disciplinary step is to be taken by the bishop or parish priest, it should be something that calls for conversion and reconciliation. In other words it should be curative and not injurious. It should be always clear that no disciplinary move in the Church should be to judge and condemn any one. It will always be helpful to read the practical instruction Moses gave to the Heads of the Tribes of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy: “You shall not be partial in judgment, you shall hear the small and the great alike; you shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God’s; and the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it” (Dt. 1:17). The final judge is however the Lord God who has perfect knowledge of everything. “Vengeance is mine, and recompense” (Dt. 32:35).

In a metaphoric way, God taught Jonah and the people of Israel a great lesson: Not only that He is slow to anger and rich in steadfast love, but also that He wants everyone who repents to be saved. “You pity the plant, for which you did not labour, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle” (Jon. 4:10-11)?

On November 13, Br. Joseph Nam Van Nguyen, S.D.D., of Domus Dei Clerical Society of Apostolic Life, and Br. Son Van Nguyen, MSA, of the Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Bishop Michael R. Cote, D.D., the Bishop of Norwich, CT at our own Holy Apostles College and Seminary Chapel. Congratulations, Deacon Nam and Deacon Son! We are so proud of you, and we continue to support you with our prayers.



Br. Joseph Nam Van Nguyen, S.D.D., Novemebr 13, 2021; Photo used with permission.

“YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN ME: BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU; AND HAVE APPOINTED YOU, THAT YOU SHOULD GO, AND SHOULD BRING FORTH FRUIT; AND YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN: THAT WHATSOEVER YOU SHALL ASK OF THE FATHER IN MY NAME, HE MAY GIVE IT YOU” (JOHN 15:16).

*(Am I a Messenger of Mercy or of Judgment?, Continued)*

In the New Testament, St. Paul makes God's universal plan of salvation much more clear when he says, "This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was given at the proper time" (1Tm. 2:3-6). Again, St. Paul reiterates God's criteria for salvation by saying, "there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him. For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rm. 10:12-13).

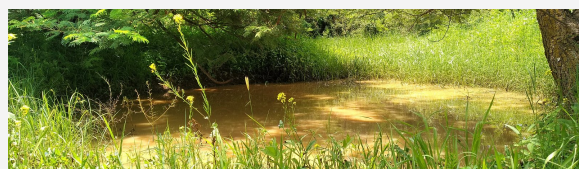
The title of my reflection is put in question form on purpose. We need to constantly ask ourselves whether our being prophets today is at the service of God's mercy or not. In our pastoral ministry, action is always, as St. Augustine put it long ago and Pope Francis reminded us during the Year of Mercy, the continuous interaction between "misericordia et misera", namely the encounter of God's mercy and human misery. This term was inspired by the story the Gospel of John 8:3-11, of the woman caught in adultery remaining alone with Jesus. Jesus represents the mercy of the Father and the woman represents the misery of sinful human beings. At the end of the incident, Jesus asks the woman, "Where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again" (Jn. 8:10-11).

Jonah, son of Amit'tai, was a simple man like any of us. When at first God called him, his reaction was to resist by running away. It was the sailors who woke him up to pray. It should have been the other way round. Also, when he went to Nineveh after the second chance God gave him, it was the pagan people of Nineveh who taught him the great lesson of repentance and conversion. Here, each one of us needs to ask, am I open to learning from the people I serve, from the students or the catechumens I teach, from the children I raise? We should, at times, look at the community of the faithful as a theologian! Then our ministry would be a real success. We would easily be messengers of mercy.



The Ghindae in the Northern Red Sea Region of Eritrea. The Ghindae is protected area for wildlife. Photo by Yonas Asfaha; All rights reserved.

**Consider offering a human formation talk, Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization students! This student-led initiative involves a Zoom presentation (approximately 45-60 minutes in length) in one's area of expertise. A student who offers a human formation presentation in one's area of expertise will receive five hours of formation credit. For more information, see the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization Handbook.**



Mendefera Southern region of Eritrea; Photo by Yonas Asfaha; All rights reserved.

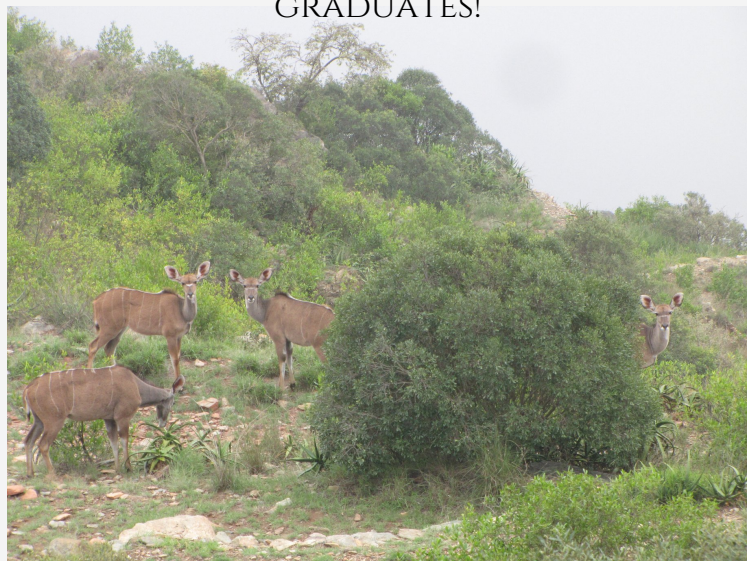
"WE MUST REVIVE IN OURSELVES THE BURNING CONVICTION OF PAUL, WHO CRIED OUT: 'WOE TO ME IF I DO NOT PREACH THE GOSPEL' (1 COR 9:16)."

SAINT JOHN PAUL II  
NOVO MILLENNIO INEUNTE #40



A Daero tree, used by our grandparents to conduct meetings beneath it. It bears small fruit, which is eaten by humans and animals. Segeneiti, the Southern region of Eritrea; Photo by Yonas Asfaha; All rights reserved.

FROM 2017 THROUGH 2021  
HOLY APOSTLES COLLEGE AND SEMINARY  
GRADUATED FIVE COHORTS OF STUDENTS  
FROM ERITREA.  
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 60  
GRADUATES!



Greater Kudu Antelopes, Filfil, Northern Red Sea region of Eritrea; Photo by Yonas Asfaha; All rights reserved.

In his fresco,  
The Last  
Judgment,  
Michelangelo  
depicted Christ  
below Jonah  
(IONAS) to  
qualify the  
prophet as his  
precursor.

Photo by  
Michelangelo -  
Part of Last  
Judgement  
(Michelangelo).j  
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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17699267>.



**Earn ten hours of spiritual formation credit for attending a retreat, in-person or virtually.**  
**Consider attending the 17th Annual Virtual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics and Spirituality Conference for at least ten hours from February 11-13, 2022. For details, see the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization Handbook and the Conference advertisement.**

(Am I a Messenger of Mercy or of Judgment?, Continued)

We can learn at least two important lessons from prophet Jonah. They are his honesty and straightforwardness as well as his stubborn hope. From the beginning to the end of the story, we see Jonah very honest with himself, the sailors, the Ninevites and especially with God. He was honest when he was afraid. He was honest when he prayed, as well as when he was angry and disappointed. In short, he tells it as he feels it! This is very important in our ministry, even today. People look at us in the eyes and they can tell if we are really honest about what we say and what we do. Many times they can tell there are discrepancies and contradictions in our homilies, talks and even personal conversations. Jonah was also very hopeful. When he was swallowed into the belly of the fish, he could have lost hope and given up altogether. On the contrary, we see him make a beautiful prayer full of great faith, hope and humility.

In these times when we feel swallowed into the modern bellies of the fish represented by the pandemic, by conflicts and violence, by poverty and famine, by a reckless materialism and relativism, we need a great dose of hope. We should say, as Jonah, from the belly of the fish, said, “when my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I, with the voice of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord! And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land” (Jon. 2:7-10).

After three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, he came out on dry land, just as Jesus died and rose again in three days! “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Mt. 12:39-40). We know and believe that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Let us never give up even in the most difficult situations. There is always Christ the Light at the end of the tunnel. -Abune Menghestab Tesfamariam



Some women and an old man are working to check loose rock dams for silt trap; Afabet, Northern Red Sea region of Eritrea; Photo by Yonas Asfaha; All rights reserved.

CONSIDER  
GETTING A JUMP-  
START ON  
PASTORAL  
FORMATION. SEE  
THE MASTER OF  
DIVINITY IN THE  
NEW  
EVANGELIZATION  
HANDBOOK FOR  
DETAILS. FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
IDEAS, CONSULT  
FR. MICHAEL  
GAITLEY'S BOOK,  
"YOU DID TO ME:"  
A PRACTICAL  
GUIDE TO MERCY  
IN ACTION.

# WHY I'M PURSUING THE MASTER OF DIVINITY IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION BY JUSTIN READ

I look forward to pursuing the M.Div. in the New Evangelization at Holy Apostles. As a soon-to-be Holy Apostles graduate with my Master of Arts in Philosophy, Holy Apostles has enriched me intellectually and spiritually in my current philosophical studies. I look forward to continuing to deepen my faith through studies in Theology.

There are a few reasons I chose the M.Div. program in particular. First, as a layperson, I think the emphasis on the New Evangelization is much needed for the Church in today's world. The M.Div. is a great opportunity for the laity to be enriched academically and spiritually. The distance learning provides an opportunity for those who cannot physically be present on a campus to be able to partake in these studies in an authentically Catholic and accredited environment.

Secondly, I have a desire to pursue licentiate and doctoral studies at the Angelicum after graduating with an M.Div. Combined with a philosophical background, the courses in the M.Div. are close to the requirements for a pontifical S.T.B. degree and will help prepare and qualify me for my second cycle licentiate studies.

I encourage any person, lay or religious, who is looking for a sound and holistic formation in the Catholic faith to consider pursuing the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization from Holy Apostles.

**Welcome to all of our M.Div./NE and new MAPS students!**

Please send comments or submissions for *Into the Deep* to Dr. J. M. Siegmund at  
msiegmund@holypostles.edu



**For those already engaged in fruitful ministry, or for those hoping one day to enter into ministry, the groundbreaking new program, the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization, will equip you with the theological and practical resources you need for success. Apply today!**

Dr. Andrew Blaski  
Chief Academic Officer



The Annunciation (1440-1442) by Fra Angelico; Public Domain



## HUMAN FORMATION CONFERENCE, SPRING 2022

As detailed in the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization Handbook, each semester the M.Div./NE and MAPS departments will host a one-hour Human Formation Conference via Zoom. During this inaugural conference in the spring, we will discuss Pope Saint John Paul II's Encyclical, Dives in Misericordia [*Rich in Mercy*] in relation to human formation. All MAPS and M.Div./NE faculty and students are welcome to attend.

The Human Formation Conference will be recorded, should one not be able to attend live via Zoom. It will take place on Wednesday, March 2. In January, I'll be contacting new students to ask your time preference for this hour-long conference.

If you wish to obtain human formation credit, be sure to read and prepare a few points of the Encyclical that you would like to discuss in light of human formation during our gathering. For more on human formation and conference details, see the M.Div./NE Handbook.

By participating in this first Human Formation Conference, one earns five hours of human formation credit. In other words, it satisfies half of the ten required human formation hours and it will be a lot of fun, too! Again, new and current MAPS and M.Div./NE faculty and students are graciously welcome to attend this groundbreaking formation event. I look forward to having a stimulating intellectual and pastoral conversation with you! -Dr. J. M. Siegmund



Immaculate Conception in the Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila, Philippines; By Vincenzo Assenza - Scanned holy card, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=81380952>

# "HAIL, FULL OF GRACE"

LUKE 1:28

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<https://wcatradio.com/support/>

Announcing a new program

## The Fireside Fellowship

Holy Apostles College and Seminary is pleased to make the ministry called The Fireside Fellowship available to students. Created by actor, author and Catholic Robert Hanley who conducts these sessions, The Fireside Fellowship is a spiritual supplement to Hanley's book Do You See What I See?

Discovering the Obvious, which has been praised by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, His Eminence, Wilton Cardinal Gregory and other bishops as well as major media outlets.

Students will receive one hour of human formation credit for each session attended.

To find out more about The Fireside Fellowship go to <https://robert-hanley.com/TheFiresideFellowship.php>

For a free copy of Hanley's book and to sign up to participate in these sessions, [click here](#).



Do  
whatever  
He tells  
you.

John 2:5

