



Holy Apostles
College & Seminary

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INTO THE DEEP

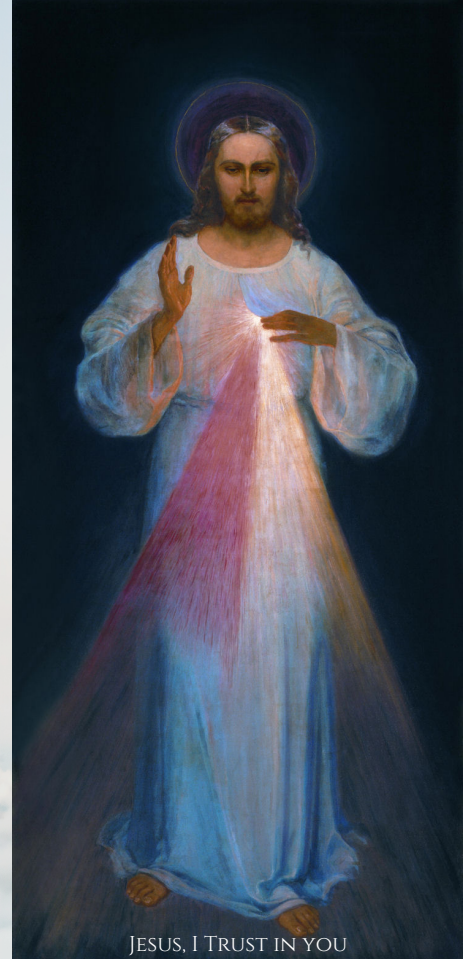
Luke 5:4

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

Theology for the Heart

Transforming the Culture one Heart at a Time

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SPRING
SEMESTER 2022

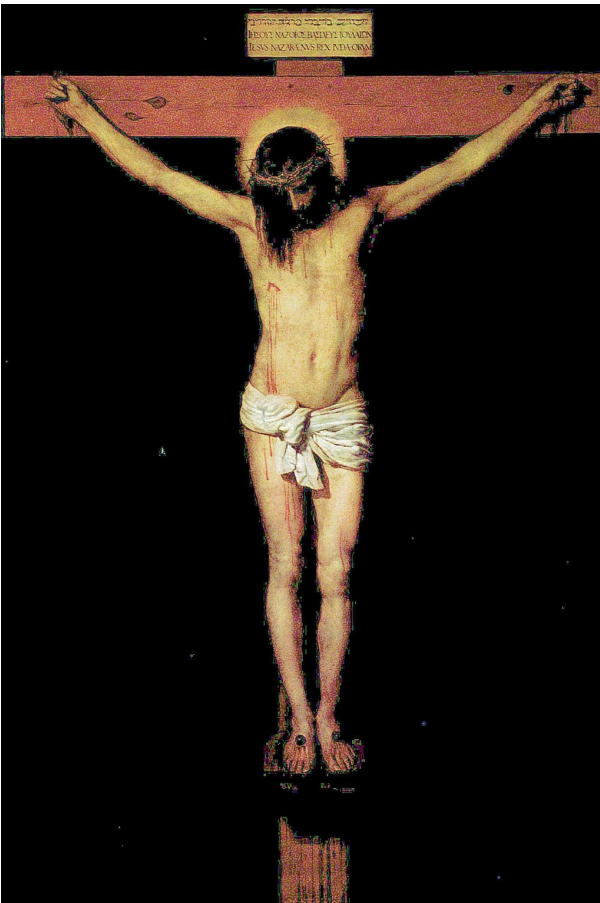
"BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD"

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

This edition of *Into the Deep* is dedicated to the Sacred Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. During Lent, we reflect with deep gratitude upon the immeasurable drops of Precious Blood He shed for our salvation. Most truly do we proclaim with Holy Mother Church, "O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer" (Easter Exultet)!

As we approach Holy Week, let us prepare our hearts for this most sacred time of the year in which we commemorate the mysteries of our Redemption. In fact, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus are such profound mysteries that we not only focus upon them during Lent, but we also contemplate them every Friday of the year. Even more, since the Mass is the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary in obedience to the Father, we offer grateful praise and adoration for our Redemption at every Mass.

Through our own prayer, marvel and reflection upon Christ's sorrowful Passion and death, let us remember that suffering is redemptive (Colossians 1:24). In other words, we can unite our sufferings, no matter how small or large, to those of Jesus and offer them to our Heavenly Father for the conversion of sinners and for the eternal salvation of all souls. (continued on page 2)



Christ crucified, by Diego Velázquez (1632); Public Domain

(continued from page 1) The human person is communal in nature, for we are created by the Triune God in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). Consequently, the moral and immoral actions we do affect the Mystical Body of Christ and the whole world, for better or for worse. Relying upon the Precious Blood of Jesus and the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us ask Jesus for the courage to serve Him faithfully each day of our lives.

Striving to increase our gratitude to the Father for sending His Son for our Redemption, we entrust ourselves to His merciful love for the work of salvation (John 3:16). May you have a blessed and fruitful Holy Week and Triduum!

RE-CONSECRATION OF MAPS AND CONSECRATION OF THE M.DIV./NE TO GOD'S DIVINE MERCY

DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

In Pastoral Theology, we apply the science of Theology to specific concrete situations in our every day lives. Serving our neighbor, then, is integrally linked to God's Divine Mercy. As Pope Saint John Paul II explains, "mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man" (Dives in Misericordia #6).

I would like to invite you to join me in our annual renewal of consecration of the MAPS department to Divine Mercy, which began in 2020. Since we are in the very first semester of launching our new program, the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization (M.Div./NE), I welcome you to join me in consecrating the M.Div./NE department for the first time. We do so by uniting together 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 and M.Div./NE departments 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 and M.Div./NE 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 deeds, words, and prayers. I ask for these things in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Merciful Redeemer. Amen.

AN EVANGELIZATION STORY

BY MARIA SMITH

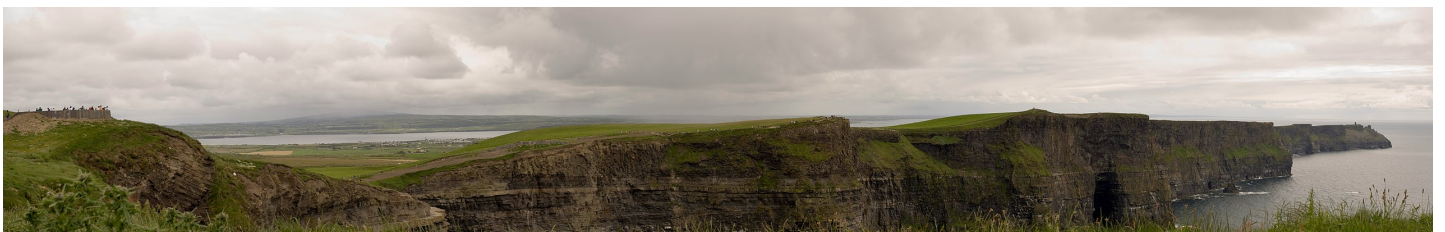
THREE STRANGERS AND OUR FATHER

On a sunny winter day, parked near the Cathedral, I sat in my car enjoying the unexpected warmth of a February day in New England. Having arrived early for the daily Mass at noon, I noticed an elderly man on the sidewalk in front of me, walking in the direction of my car. Behind me another car had just parked and a tall, lanky young man came into view in my side mirror. The old man, plainly down-and-out both by appearance and by gait, called out to the young man who walked over to him and stood listening quietly, holding two small but thick prayer books in his hands.

Intending to slip past the men who were now but a couple of feet away from my parked car, I emerged from the driver's seat and, without glancing at either of them, turned quickly to walk towards the Cathedral. Undeterred, the old man addressed me, asking if I had a couple of dollars for a bus ride to get to an eye doctor appointment. I looked at his face; his left eye was swollen shut. "I think I do," I said, and went for my wallet. Taking out crisp dollar bills I handed them to him, saying "God bless you," to which he promptly replied, "God bless you," and then immediately added, "I'm a Roman Catholic" in a decisive, affirming voice. Spontaneously I felt inspired to suggest, "Can we say a prayer together?"

"The Our Father," the ill-clad man proclaimed decisively. There we three stood, in the middle of a sidewalk in a small northeastern city, a tall young man, myself (a little old woman), together with an elderly destitute man. Forming a triangle, we bowed our heads and prayed the Lord's Prayer together. Only such a Father as ours could have orchestrated such an impromptu sidewalk prayer meeting with three hitherto strangers.

The three of us then began to walk towards the Cathedral, the young man conversing with the old man. A friend of mine was also heading towards the Cathedral; I called out to her, and we chatted briefly before entering our Father's magnificent home. The old man continued on his way; the young man also entered the Cathedral.



Cliffs of Moher, Panorama from below O'Brien's Tower; By Sbuckley - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5758390>



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



MEET PAUL R. CHUTIKORN, M.A.

By Paul R. Chutikorn, M.A.

After having completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in philosophy and theology here at Holy Apostles, I decided to continue my studies in the M.Div. program because I felt the need to develop greater skill in applying what I know theoretically in more practical settings. Having worked as a Director of Faith Formation at the parish level for many years now, I see firsthand that there is another element in need of refinement – namely, the heart for pastoral guidance as well as an increased proficiency in thinking and feeling with the Church (*sensire cum ecclesia*).

The program is filled with study of Church documents, sacred scripture, spiritual theology, and more! All of which is geared towards forming students to become effective instruments of our Lord in the New Evangelization. As someone who is discerning the Permanent Diaconate, this sets me up quite well.

The coursework also prepares me for the potential to pursue licentiate studies should I be called in that direction in the future. I look forward to the intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral growth that this new program is sure to bring to me, and by extension, to my family and those with whom I work at the parish. Please pray for me!



Photo by J. Marianne Siegmund. All rights reserved.

Mercy is a moment of forgiveness. "Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of love which is more powerful than sin. Forgiveness is also the fundamental condition for reconciliation, not only in the relationship of God with man, but also in relationships between people."

**Pope John Paul II,
Encyclical Dives in Misericordia #14**

Quotation offered by Patrick Maguire

MASTER OF DIVINITY IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

FIRST EVER HUMAN FORMATION CONFERENCE

**On February 24, 2022 the
M.Div./NE students and Dr.
Siegmund held a Conference
discussing Pope Saint John Paul
II's Encyclical, Dives in
Misericordia.**

**Conference participants from
across the nation attended the
hour-long dialogue via Zoom. The
conversation was inspiring,
formative, and intellectual.
Conference participants earned
five hours of Human Formation
credit.**

**Be part of the second
Human Formation Conference
on July 6 at 7:00 PM EST
as we discuss
Saint Augustine's On Patience!**

A CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT'S REFLECTIONS By Patrick Maguire

The Human Formation component to the M. Div. Program allows students to interact in a meaningful way with Dr. Siegmund and their classmates. The conversation about Pope Saint John Paul II's Encyclical letter, Dives in Misericordia, allows students to learn from each other in a collegial manner and prepares them for various ministries in the Church.

MAPS and M.Div./NE Students!

Consider offering a human formation talk in partial or full fulfillment of your human formation hours. 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](#).

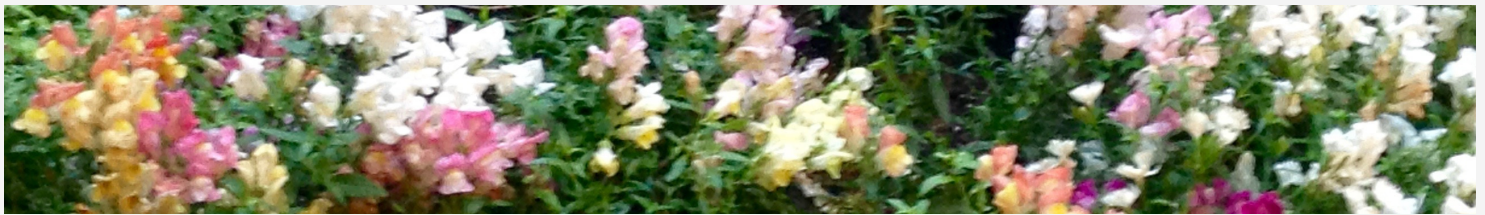


Photo by J. M. Siegmund; All rights reserved.

A CONVERSION STORY BY A HOLY APOSTLES STUDENT

PREFACE

I do not publicly praise my good works before others because if I do so, then their admiration of my works becomes my final reward – and then there is no reward remaining for me from God, either here on earth or in heaven ([Mt. 6:1-4](#)). Therefore, I do good works secretly, but the Lord, who sees those good works, rewards me as he sees fit (Mt. 6:5-6) and my future treasures are laid up for me in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21). The only reason this story is shared with you is...[deleted for confidentiality]. Otherwise, neither you nor anyone else would ever read about or hear about this real event. We, the servants of the Lord, serve our God in secret, specifically by helping the spiritual and corporal needs of others, when the appropriate circumstances are presented to us.

SCENARIO

My wife and I bought a condo for her mother. After she died, a neighbor recommended renting it to two brothers named John and Jim Doe. John Doe was a convicted felon with multiple arrests spanning several years, to include battery on a law enforcement officer. However, he was off probation, and he had served his time in prison, and he was actively attending AA and NA meetings, so we agreed to rent the condo to the two Doe brothers.

After about four years, the brothers were suddenly unable to pay rent, so we gave them deadlines for when they could pay half the amount, and the rest would be forgiven forever. That worked for only one month and then the brothers said they were destitute. They had no money, and they reportedly could not find jobs. In reality, John Doe had been fired from every local job, and he had burned all his employment-bridges. Subsequently, no one would hire him anymore. Jim Doe said he was applying for jobs every day, but when I pressed him, he admitted that he never left the condo to apply for (continued on page six)

(continued from page 5) a job. Instead, he allegedly applied for jobs via online applications. I explained to Jim that without specialized educational credentials, it was highly unlikely that a manager would hire him, based only on an online application and without conducting an in-person interview, and Jim needed to meet the managers in-person to get hired. I told Jim exactly where to go “in-person” for a job and he was hired on-the-spot as a custodian.

After Jim found employment, he was only able to make one last half-payment for his monthly rent, so I had another meeting with him. During the meeting, I recognized that Jim was a broken man and that he would never be able to become a contributing member of society, unless someone “gave him a chance,” so I told Jim that he could stay in the condo rent free, indefinitely, until he could “get back up on his feet.” He ended up staying rent free for a little over 8 months, until he died unexpectedly (more on that in a minute). I was still paying monthly condo fees and property taxes (half the rent money covered the condo fees). The Lord has blessed my wife and I with the ability to do so.

Meanwhile, Jim’s brother (John Doe) fell off the AA/NA wagon and he began generating condo complaints from unsigned anonymous letters from “condo management.” We interviewed John Doe several times about the ongoing allegations, but he denied all the anonymous accusations. Since the allegations were from unsigned letters, we consistently gave John the benefit of the doubt.

On one occasion, when I was alone with John, I presented Jesus to him. He was a backslidden Roman Catholic, so he was familiar with the Church, but he quickly cut me off and said, “That stuff might work for you, but it doesn’t work for me [because it is not real. What is real is the ‘here and now’ and nothing more].” I honored John’s opinion and dropped the topic. He would be found dead about two weeks later (more on that in a minute).

When the condo board sent a final letter-of-warning about John, we asked him to vacate the condo by a specific date. On that date, John checked himself into a rehab center. However, he absconded from the rehab program and he was found dead three days later, floating face down in a body of water. It was classified as a non-suspicious death by local law enforcement, so a toxicological autopsy was not conducted to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol in the body. The body was simply buried.

A couple of weeks later, while I was alone with the remaining brother, Jim, I presented Jesus to him too, and he prayed the sinner’s prayer with me! Hallelujah! I began uncontrollably crying or “groaning in the Spirit” during my short prayer time with Jim. (If you have never experienced groaning in the Spirit, then it is impossible to adequately describe it, but you can read Romans 8:26-27 for a glimmer of insight into it. It is extremely painful to experience, albeit it is not a physical pain *per se*.) Jim accepted the Lord and he repented of his sins during that prayer. While he never went to church, his heart was in the right place with the Lord, in preparation for eternity. Ironically and within a couple of weeks, he was diagnosed with throat cancer and then he was dead in three more weeks.

ANALYSIS

In this one case, we have two brothers who were both raised as Roman Catholics. One openly rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, at least initially, while the other, in humility and brokenness, confessed the Lordship of Christ. “A broken and contrite spirit, Oh God, you will not despise” (Psalms 51:17b). (continued on page 7)



Stained glass window based on the parable, Charleston, South Carolina; Photo by FranzMayerstainedglass - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9538365>

(continued from page 6) Both brothers were given equal opportunities to be saved while they were here on earth, but only one openly accepted that opportunity, while the other openly rejected it, at least at the moment I presented it. Nevertheless, we trust in God's mercy that, during his final moments on earth shortly thereafter, John repented. That's how it is for all people; we either accept or reject the grace and mercy of Christ Jesus. Today is "the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2), because we do not know what tomorrow brings.

Let us have deep and profound confidence and trust in the boundless mercy of Christ! Jesus, I trust in You! Jesus, I trust in Your love for me! I ask you to please join me in prayers imbued with trust and confidence in God's Divine Mercy for the speedy repose of these two brothers, who are truly our brothers in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EARN SPIRITUAL FORMATION CREDIT AND GROW IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

By attending a retreat, in-person or virtually, one can earn spiritual formation credit.

For five or ten hours of formation credit, consider attending five or ten hours of the virtual free retreat entitled, Divine Mercy Summit 2022 The Art and Work of Mercy. The retreat takes place from April 15 through 24 (Good Friday through Divine Mercy Sunday).

For details, please see the Master of Divinity in the New Evangelization Handbook and the Conference advertisement.

**“WHENEVER
YOU WANT TO
MAKE ME
HAPPY, TELL THE
WORLD ABOUT
MY GREAT AND
UNFATHOMABLE
MERCY.”**

JESUS TO SAINT
FAUSTINA, DIARY, #164

NOVEMBER PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE HOLY SOULS (2021)

By Tessa Breen

While participating in PAS 602 Fundamentals of Practical Theology class last semester, one of the assignments included organizing a 'practical theology project' in which some aspect of theology was to be put into practice. For my project, I organized a small candle-lit 'prayer vigil' for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, which fittingly took place in November at a local Catholic cemetery. I invited friends and family to attend the vigil, and in preparation compiled and printed a program containing the prayers we were going to pray and procured blessed candles and glow-in-the-dark rosaries. The cemetery had a large, beautiful statue of the Crucifixion, where we gathered to begin. After leading an opening prayer as the candles were lit, we prayed together the "Prayer for the Holy Souls" by St. John Henry Newman and then walked through the cemetery praying the Chaplet of the Holy Souls, using glow-in-the-dark rosaries. After praying the Litany of the Holy Souls, we closed with a prayer petitioning God's peace and mercy on all His departed servants.

The Church exhorts the faithful to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. While this is a pious practice to do daily, the Church especially recommends the faithful to do so in November – the month dedicated to the Holy Souls – in order to gain a plenary indulgence for the faithful departed. A plenary indulgence can "remove all temporal punishment due to forgiven sin" (Fr. John A. Hardon, S. J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, 330). Providing one is properly disposed (fully unattached from all sin), there are three external conditions necessary for plenary indulgences: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father (*Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, 331). During the month of November, the faithful can receive a special indulgence by fulfilling these three normal conditions in addition to visiting/praying at a cemetery. While this particular indulgence is normally limited to the octave of All Souls' Day (the first 8 days of November), the Vatican granted the faithful an extension for this indulgence for the whole month of November in 2021 (Aleteia, "Vatican Again Extends November Indulgences").

This project really turned out to be a wonderful experience for all involved, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity and occasion to plan it through my class at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. I hope to make this event into a November tradition in future!



Photo by J. M. Siegmund



Photo by J. M. Siegmund

“You may think that there are not enough hours in the day to do all that needs to be done. I promise you that every hour given exclusively to Me will be like the seed of an abundant harvest. The fruit that you will reap will surpass beyond all imagining the little you will have given Me by abiding in My Presence.”

In Sinu Jesu When Heart Speaks to Heart: The Journal of a Priest at Prayer p. 264



Fra Angelico, The Crucified Christ (detail); Public Domain

"HAIL THE
CROSS OUR
ONE HOPE"



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Seminary

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AVE CRUX, SPES
UNICA



How eternally important it is to share our Faith with
others! Never doubt the power of God's grace working
in and through the words and actions you speak.
Thanks be to our loving Father in Heaven that He is so
merciful!

Dr. J. Marianne Siegmund



Welcome to all of our new M.Div./NE and MAPS students!
We are very proud of all of our students and we are glad
you chose to study with us!

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