



**EADM Carolinas**

## *Benacles of The Divine Mercy*

### **St. Matthew Catholic Church**

8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkway

Charlotte, NC 28277

704-543-7677



**Jesus, I Trust in You!**

## Excerpts from Divine Mercy Day of Healing 9.16.17 Commemorative Edition



**Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, STD**

A Christian is the universal sister/brother of all people. We need to rely on the backdrop of dignity to care for the sick and dying ..... WE ARE CARING FOR THEM .... not for our needs, but for theirs....

Pastoral Care is a humble ministry.... we defer to those we care for...we listen to them. We wait patiently to respond to their needs.

When we say "YES" to serve the sick and dying, we become servants. We are a servant who never usurps the Master.

Sharing the burdens vs. the load...

As Christians, we help each other and share the burdens.... not the loads. We are there to encourage someone within their own suffering, not to fix it.

Sometimes suffering people want to be alone.... don't overstay your pastoral caring .... pray to know their needs and allow them to experience their suffering which is between that person and God. Don't rob them of their journey. The suffering and dying will ask for our help.

The Pastoral Care Ministry:

- 1) Our task is to LOVE
- 2) Our task is to HONOR the sick and dying
- 3) Our task is to SEEK HARMONY
- 4) Our task is to SERVE the sick and dying
- 5) Our task is to DEFEND the sick and dying
- 6) Our task is to FORGIVE them

The moral authority that comes with being very sick requires us to honor them.

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO...

- Make the sick and suffering happy
- Or take on the role to determine how the sick and dying respond to their own situation of suffering/difficulty



**Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC with Ralph Sullivan**

**Excerpts from Father Seraphim Michalenko's talk.**

We must evangelize to the sick and suffering as St. Paul did.

In Matthew 4: 23-24 ...He proclaimed the good news of the kingdom and cured the people of every disease and illness.

It is our business to appropriate what Jesus did for us through praise and thanksgiving.

In the Divine Mercy Chaplet, when we pray "Oh, Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You!", we are proclaiming our faith.

The Divine Mercy is the greatest movement in the Church because it is spread by the laity.

Venerating the Divine mercy image is venerating Jesus.

The Divine Mercy is the Spirit in the Person of Jesus.

The Divine Mercy devotion is the last-ditch effort to prepare for our Salvation.

Fr. Michalenko referenced the essay written by Fr. John Horgan, STL, on "The Mercy of God and Modern Medicine" and about the mission of St. Faustina in relation to modern medicine. Fr. Horgan believed in **a crying need for evangelization to the sick and suffering** as he referred to the patients at St. Paul's Hospital, where many HIV-Aids patients were treated at the hospital where he was a Chaplain in British Columbia.

Fr. Michalenko illustrated how the diary of St. Faustina when writing about suffering, illness and death was supported by scripture accounts of Jesus' healing miracles. It was powerful. ###

---



**Dr. Bryan Thatcher, Founder of Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy and Cenacles of Divine Mercy**

Healthcare workers must change their paradigm of thinking. They prepare people to see God and this must be their focus. Deeds of mercy are derived out of love of Jesus.

We must take time to listen to everyone we care for to make better decisions through listening. The Lord said: You cannot have peace without My mercy.

## Way of Life:

- Forgive others and yourself
- Be merciful... show kindness ... do things out of love of God
- Carry your cross as Jesus carried His.

## Forgiveness:

- As in the “Our Father” .... as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- Forgive and forget
- Faustina said, “we resemble God most when we forgive our neighbor”

## Trust:

- Jesus, I trust in You image... let it be our anchor
- Lack of trust produces obstacles to holiness: anxiety and discouragement
- Trusting in God does not mean all will be well
- It is the vessel with which we draw upon God’s mercy.

Mercy is love that seeks to lessen the misery of others. We must do this without expecting anything in return.

Spread the Good News.... Never be afraid to stand up for your Faith. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a Eucharist Prayer . . . Jesus told St. Faustina to say it unceasingly. Say it for the sick and dying during adoration.

Faustina and the Lord... Pray as much as possible for the dying by your entreaties, obtain for them trust in My mercy because they have most need of Trust and have it least. Always remember, All is not lost!

Healthcare workers – recognize your job is a vocation. ###



**1-Kathy Bartlett – 2-Deacon Gary presents Crystal Divine Mercy gift to Father Seraphim Michalenko**

**3-Father Pat Hoare and Father Seraphim Michalenko impart healing blessing**

**4-Father Pat and Father Seraphim Anointing with Chrism assisted by Deacon Gary**

**5-Deacon Gary Blesses attendees with St. Faustina 1<sup>st</sup> Class Relic**



Deacon Gary presents awards to Tom Smith, Dennis Stergar, and Randy Vaca for their Pastoral Care Leadership.



**Deacon Gary Schrieber**, our new Divine Mercy Apostolate Leader and Spiritual Director of St. Matthew's Cenacles of Divine Mercy, spoke on Divine Mercy at St. Matthew and on the parish's Pastoral Care Program.

He noted among Divine Mercy Apostolate's activities are the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday which has been celebrated since (then) Pope John Paul II inaugurated the feast day in year 2000. Divine Mercy Cenacles were introduced on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 2010 at the 3 pm Hour of Great Mercy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month Holy Hours are devoted to specific Divine Mercy intentions. Cenacle groups are still forming and have brought blessings to many people.

In Fall 2010, The Divine Mercy Day of Healing was started. Today's event is the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Divine Mercy Day of Healing. Each event has a special theme, such as, "Spiritual Care of the Sick and Dying." The programs feature experts to guide us in understanding the depth of Divine Mercy; how to draw upon God's mercy via the Vessel of Trust, and how to share it with a hurting world.

Jesus taught Sister Faustina that we show mercy to our neighbor by "Deeds, Word and Prayer. Among the instruments He provided are venerating The Divine Mercy Image, praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, attending Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, attending the 3 pm Hour of Great Mercy, and praying the Divine Mercy Novena from Good Friday to the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Deacon Gary referred to Social Death as the alienation of certain people from society – the forgotten, excluded, isolated and ignored. It is to them that St. Matthew seeks to serve through its Pastoral Care Programs'.

- 6 Hospital ministers serve 48-to-60 patients monthly
- 12 Homebound ministers serve 42 people weekly
- 15 Assisted Living facilities are served by 90 ministers visiting 220 people weekly

###

The September 16, 2017 Divine Mercy Day of Healing was devoted to "Spiritual Care of the Sick and Dying." Here are a few comments from attendees:

*"It was a blessing to serve and to see how pleased the participants were to take part in the conference." – Perri Bomar*

*"I want to thank you all for a wonderful day. It was so moving and I feel blessed to have been a part of it." – Annie Guteres*

*"Congratulations – your program today we feel was a resounding success. God Bless, Dr. Tom Coyle and Carole."*

*"Yes, it truly was a beautiful day!! I feel like I'm still basking in the Lord Light!! I'm so thankful that the Lord has brought me to Charlotte and to this beautiful Divine Mercy Community!!" – Kathy Consler*



*"I want to thank each of you for your splendid assistance in helping to make our day of healing a truly memorable day."*



*"When we all come together the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus fill our gathering space with their presence. To witness everyone come together and help in all the ways you did today left me feeling blessed to be part of this beautiful ministry where mercy and prayer have become a part of our everyday lives. Thank you for the way your presence added a ray of beauty to our day of healing." – Lorraine Carpenter."*

*"It was so wonderful that it changed my life – I wrote down the date so I would remember when it happened." Regina Carnavos*

*"Bless you all for believing in Divine Mercy and as Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy being true partners in spreading its message so that mankind might accept it as their last best hope for salvation. I have complete trust in your ability to carry it forward." – Ralph Sullivan*

Excerpts by Lucille Coan

Photos by Bernardine Armstrong and Cindy Ortiz

**Plan ahead to participate in all Divine Mercy has to offer in 2018**

- March 30 – April 7 – Divine Mercy Novena
- April 7-8 - Divine Mercy Sunday
- April 8 – 3 pm Hour of Great Mercy
- March 17-18 – In-Home Cenacle Sign-ups; Promote Divine Mercy Sunday
- March 30-31 – In-Home Cenacles Sign-ups
- September 7-8 – Eucharistic Congress
- September 22-23 – In-Home Cenacles Sign-ups; Seek Day of Healing registrants
- September 29-30 – In-Home Cenacles Sign-ups; Seek Day of Healing Registrants
- October 6 – Ninth Annual Divine Mercy Day of Healing – “Be Missionaries of Mercy”

- 2018 Divine Mercy Holy Hours**
- January 4 - Feed the Hungry, Drink to Thirsty**
- February 1 – Clothe the Naked**
- March 1 – Shelter the Homeless**
- May 3 – Visit the Imprisoned**
- June 7 – Visit the Sick**
- July 5 – Bury the Dead**
- August 2 – Instruct the Ignorant**
- September 6 – Comfort the Sorrowful**

