



The Catholic Medical Mission Board, of which Bishop Joe was a board member, announced, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, plans to build the Bishop Joseph Sullivan Medical Center in Cotes- de-Fer, Haiti, a 30 bed facility, to serve mothers and their children less than five years of age. The site appears to be a beautiful setting.

### **Welcome:**

The 13<sup>th</sup> St. Matthew Cenacle of The Divine Mercy began meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Kathy and Armand Tetu in Indian Trail. The group is comprised of 12 members. In the introductory phase the group will be using the Cenacle of the Divine Mercy EWTN Program Series One, consisting of 13 Mercy lesson topics discussed by a cenacle-in-action, filmed in Stockbridge, MA. Additional cenacles will be up and running this Fall.

### **Introduction to Divine Mercy at St. Gabriel**

Another parish is introducing The Divine Mercy to its parishioners. Linda Considine and her husband Jim are coordinating the effort. They participated in a St. Matthew cenacle and then assisted Barbara Coleman in launching cenacles at St. John Neumann. Sessions for the start up cenacles are being offered at 10:00am; 11:30am and 7:00pm on Tuesdays beginning on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Those interested are asked to respond by August 15<sup>th</sup> with their choice of session. Call 704-362-3432 or email at [jtconsid@aol.com](mailto:jtconsid@aol.com).

### **Monthly Divine Mercy Holy Hour at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Northeast Charlotte**

The Catholic News & Herald's July 19, 2013 issue featured the monthly Holy Hour that has been taking place on the first Friday of every month starting in January. Parishioner Michael Deer and Deacon Dean Witulski happened to share a personal devotion to Divine Mercy and collaborated to offer the holy hour for the spiritual benefit of the parish and the diocese. The Holy Hour consists of readings from the Diary, meditation, the Litany of Divine Mercy, prayers and Benediction.



**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!**

### ***For God and Souls Newsletter, July 15, 2013***

#### Developments:

Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II have been cleared for Sainthood by Pope Francis. It is anticipated that the canonizations will be in a joint celebration to take place before year's end. The date is yet to be announced but speculation favors December 8, the Feast of The Immaculate Conception which falls on a Sunday. Others hope for an October date as the month of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blessed John Paul II's pontificate, and St. Faustina's Feast Day and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death

At St. Matthew Catholic Church on May 1, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrated Pope John Paul II being declared Blessed and we began prayers for his canonization. Monsignor McSweeney distributed Blessed John Paul II Canonization prayer cards and medals of The Great Mercy Pope. Our prayers have been answered.

The topic of Canonization will be fresh on everyone's mind when The Divine Mercy Day of Healing's Fall Event entitled "MERCY – The Stuff Saints Are Made of," is presented at St. Matthew Catholic Church on October 5, 2013, The Feast of St. Maria Faustina and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death. See the Hold-The-Date advertisement in this issue.

#### Witness Story:

My brother, Bishop Joe Sullivan, retired auxiliary bishop from Brooklyn, New York, died on June 7<sup>th</sup> following an accident on the Long Island Expressway on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Pat and I were anxiously driving from Charlotte NC hoping to arrive at the hospital by 3pm, June 6<sup>th</sup> in hopes of reciting the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy during the Hour of Great Mercy and before he passed away. We got to his bedside with a couple of minutes to spare and recited The Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Bishop Joe had been unconscious from the time of the accident – kept alive on life support. In his health directive he had handwritten in "that if his condition were to become irreversible that he did not wish to have his life prolonged." When the Chief of Medicine told our family that his condition was irreversible, we agreed in unison to support my sister Fran, his healthcare proxy, that the machines be turned off. His body was able to only emit a few gasps and he was dead. The time was 3:28pm on June 7<sup>th</sup>, also in the Hour of Great Mercy.

In the room were nurses, a priest, some family members and associates from Catholic Charities. We prayed and experienced sacred moments. Father Gilmartin asked if I would say a final prayer when it occurred to me to pray the optional closing prayer of the Chaplet, "Eternal God in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will which is love and mercy itself." It was as though Bishop Joe were saying the prayer to comfort us.