



Refresh Your Faith Conference

*With
Merciful Love*

JUNE 19, 2021
MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY

Message from the Committee

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the “Refresh your Faith with Merciful Love” Conference! We are so happy to be able to come together and share this day after over a year of COVID-19 isolation! We have been praying for all of you and for God to provide a way for us to be present together to be able to experience the message of His divine love and mercy.



Our theme, “With Merciful Love,” was prayerfully selected and divinely inspired. In the early 20th century, St. Faustina received visions from Jesus that revealed the unfathomable mercy of His Heart. Today you will learn about this message and the devotion of Divine Mercy and hear a heart-felt testimony to His divine mercy and healing. Jesus’ ocean of mercy and healing is available to all of us. It is our hope and prayer that today’s Mass, Music, Speakers, Adoration and Rosary will set your hearts aflame with the love of Christ.

St. Faustina writes of the words spoken to her by Jesus in her Diary (*Entry 1520*). “*I have opened my Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust.*”

Just a reminder, plans are underway for the 2022 Conference, “Refresh your Faith Full of Grace.” Please mark it in your calendars and save the date for June 18, 2022.

Jesus I Trust in You,

Deborah Kennedy

Chair, Refresh Your Faith Conference, 2021

Cecilia Carr
Mary Carroll Donahoe
Janine Evanish
Christine Gianuzzi
Dede Henderson

Kim Rupp Marchese
Mary Lee Martines
Kim Kross-Novak
Ann O'Brien
Patricia O'Reilly
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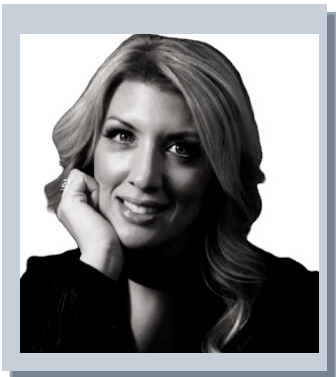
Mary Rable
Valerie Sagheddu
Ronda Schiavone
Tracy Tully
Stephanie Westington

SCHEDULE

- 8:00am Please check in. Hostess Jeannine Lesante.
Welcome and announcements.
- 8:30am The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass- *See pages 4-5.*
Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera
with music by Taylor Tripodi.
- 10:15am Break- Browse the vendor's booths.
- 10:30am Father Chris Alar- *Divine Mercy 101.*
- 11:30am Rosary with Sister Virginia Joy - *See pages 8-9.*
- 12:00pm Lunch.
- 1:00pm Theresa Bonopartis-*Your Inheritance of His Mercy.*
- 2:00pm Sister Virginia Joy- *Live the Truth of Who You Are!*
- 2:40pm Break.
- 3:00pm Eucharistic Adoration with Father Chris Alar,
Divine Mercy Chaplet and music with Taylor.
- 4:00pm Closing remarks and musical finale with Taylor.



Confession begins after Mass until 2:00pm.
Coffee and water station located in tent.



Our hostess for the conference is Jeannine Lesante, VP of Marketing at her family-owned video production company, SamSon Productions/SSPTV. She has a talk show with her mom, Deb Lesante, called "The Girls" which can be viewed on www.ssptv.com. She teaches Public Speaking at King's College, her alma mater. Jeannine started a non profit company called "Making A Difference" which has raised thousands of dollars for worthy causes in NEPA. Jeannine is a mom of two teenagers, Alyssa, 17 and Mason, 16, and a member of St. John Bosco Church in Conyngham, PA.

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Dear Participants of the 4th Catholic Women's Conference
of the Diocese of Scranton,

In his homily for this most recent Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis spoke about the various resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples, suggesting that in order to bring peace to their hearts "Jesus raises them up with mercy. Having received that mercy, they become merciful in turn. It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy."

By expressing this year's Conference theme as "**With Merciful Love**," the committee has invited speakers who will testify to the real mercy of God which they have experienced in their own lives, or which they have studied in the lives of well-known saints like St. Faustina Kowalska.

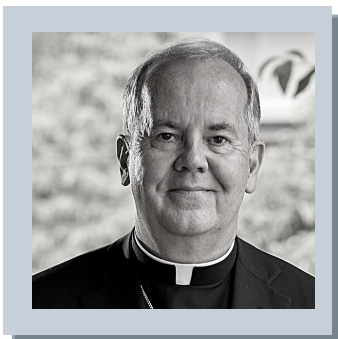
Each element of your day together will invite your own reflection on the taste and touch of God's merciful love in your own lives and the call to express that type of merciful love in all parts of the world entrusted to your care.

With Pope Francis, I echo the encouragement from that Divine Mercy Sunday homily: "Dear brothers and sisters, let us be renewed by the peace, forgiveness and wounds of the merciful Jesus. Let us ask for the grace to become *witnesses of mercy*. Only in this way will our faith be alive and our lives unified. Only in this way will we proclaim the Gospel of God, which is the Gospel of mercy."

Thank you for your commitment to being women of faith and hope for a world seeking to be merciful and refreshed. Blessings on this day and on all that flows from this experience.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

ENTRANCE HYMN - Open the Eyes of My Heart

PENITENTIAL ACT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I - Ezekiel 36: 23-28

Donna Valenti

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - The Lord is Kind and Merciful

READING II - Titus 3:1-7

Katie Veety

GOSPEL - John 8: 1-11

Deacon James Rose

HOMILY -

Bishop Joseph Bambera

PROFESSION OF FAITH

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

GIFT BEARERS: Janine Evanish, Deb Kennedy, Kathy Ostrowski

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR - Purify My Heart

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Assembly: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

MYSTERY OF FAITH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bishop Bambera: *Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

Assembly: *Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

HYMN FOR COMMUNION - Run to the Father

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

FINAL BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN - All Creatures of Our God and King

(Please stay seated for some brief announcements.)

Altar Server: Kayla Binner

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Speakers



Theresa Bonopartis is the co-developer of “Entering Canaan – a Sacramental Journey to an Inheritance of Mercy,” a post abortion ministry endorsed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which consists of special retreats. Having experienced abortion herself, her journey of healing has inspired many works across the country and the world. Theresa’s articles on healing can be found in many publications. Theresa also authored a book of meditations, “A Journey to Healing Through Divine Mercy” to assist those with real issues on their healing journey. Theresa was the recipient of the John Cardinal O’Connor Award for her work.



Father Chris Alar, MIC, is a priest with the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Father Chris wrote and produced the popular "Divine Mercy 101" and "Explaining the Faith" DVD series and is the author of the bestselling book "After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You." He is a regular host and guest on EWTN, and he also hosts the online "Divine Mercy Matters" series at DivineMercyMatters.org. He serves as the director of the Association of Marian Helpers and is the head of Marian Press, located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.



Sr. Virginia Joy entered the Sisters of Life in 2009. A native of South Carolina, she currently serves in Manhattan as the Director of the Respect Life office for the Archdiocese of New York. Sister has also served in the community Visitation Mission working with vulnerable pregnant women in need and in the Vocations mission. Joining Sister Joy today are Sister Beata Victoria and Sister Chiara Madonna.



Taylor Tripodi grew up in a small suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. She is the oldest of nine children which taught her that you have to speak up in order for your voice to be heard. Taylor uses her voice to bring God glory and praise, inspiring all who hear her to praise Him with her.

*"Music had the power to lead us into the presence of God and give us **HOPE** when everything seems dark. That is my mission: to bring the Hope of Christ in every lyric and every melody that I sing. Join me on this journey!"*



Rosary

The Mysteries of Mercy



The ROSARY with Pope Saint John Paul II

Pope Saint John Paul II wrote a Letter on the Most Holy Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, (October 16, 2002). The letter suggested to add to the traditional rosary some new mysteries. Suggested to be said on Thursday is the Mysteries of Mercy which we invite you to say today.

Quoted from Pope Saint John Paul II.

"I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives. May this appeal of mine not go unheard!"

JESUS WELCOMES THE SINNERS

One day, many tax collectors and sinners were at table with Jesus and his disciples, "How come your Master eats with sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "the healthy aren't in need of a doctor, the sick are. I desire mercy and not sacrifice, for I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9: 9-13)

May we also reveal this forgiving face to all.

JESUS FORGIVES A SINFUL WOMAN

Jesus was eating at the table of a Pharisee. In came a woman, a sinner who stood behind Jesus weeping. She began to wet his feet with her tears, to wipe them with her hair. She kissed his feet and anointed them with oil.

"Because she has shown great love, her many sins are forgiven." (Luke 7: 36-50)

Free those who are prisoners of their guilt.



Rosary

The Mysteries of Mercy



JESUS WELCOMES CHILDREN

People were bringing children to Jesus for him to touch, but the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me! For such as these is the Kingdom of God!" Then he put his arms around the children and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)

Give us the patience and wisdom to support and guide today's children.

JESUS FORGIVES THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN

A woman who had been caught in adultery was brought to Jesus. The Pharisees said to him, "In the Torah, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" Jesus said, "Let whoever is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."... "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"..."Neither do I condemn you. Go your way and from now on sin no more." (John 8:2-11)

Jesus: your forgiveness is offered to all. May your own mercy abide in us and bring us to help and understand others instead of condemning them.

JESUS FORGIVES THE CRIMINAL

Jesus has been crucified between two criminals. One of them said, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him and said, "We were sentenced justly, we're being paid back fittingly for what we did, while this fellow has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom!" Jesus answered, "Amen, I say to you, this day, you'll be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)

Give to all who are imprisoned the experience of your mercy. Free them from violence and from holding grudges.

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Saint Rose Venerini

The Conference Patroness

Feast day: May 7

She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 15, 2006.

REFLECTION

Whatever state of life God calls us to, we bring with us an assortment of experiences, interests and gifts—however small they seem to us. Rose's life stands as a reminder that all we are is meant to be put to service wherever we find ourselves.

Rose was born at Viterbo in Italy, the daughter of a doctor. Following the death of her fiancé she entered a convent, but soon returned home to care for her newly widowed mother. Meanwhile, Rose invited the women of the neighborhood to recite the rosary in her home, forming a sort of sodality with them. As she looked to her future, Rose became convinced that she was called to become a teacher in the world rather than a contemplative nun in a convent. She was a born teacher, and the free school for girls she opened in 1685 was well received.

Soon the cardinal invited her to oversee the administration of schools in his diocese of Montefiascone. As Rose's reputation grew, she was called upon to organize schools in many parts of Italy, including Rome. Rose often met considerable opposition but was never deterred.

She died in Rome in 1728, where a number of miracles were attributed to her. She was beatified in 1952 and canonized in 2006. The sodality, or group of women she had invited to prayer, was ultimately given the rank of a religious congregation. Today, the Venerini Sisters can be found in the United States and elsewhere, working among Italian immigrants.



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Guide to Confession

BEFORE GOING TO CONFESSION:

1. Pray. Ask God to give you the grace to make a good confession.
2. Examine your conscience. Reflect on your life, trying to recall all the times you sinned against God since your last confession.
3. Be truly sorry for your sins.
4. Make the resolution to avoid committing these sins in the future.

DURING CONFESSION:

1. Upon entering the confessional take your place and greet the priest.
2. Then make the sign of the Cross and say the following: "Bless me father, for I have sinned. It has been (state how many days, weeks, months, or years) since my last confession. These are my sins."
4. At this time, confess your sins briefly and clearly. It might be helpful to start with the one that is most difficult to say since it will make it easier to mention the rest. Remember that for a confession to be valid all mortal sins must be confessed. If you do not know whether a sin is mortal or not, ask the priest for guidance. If you do not know what to say, feel uneasy or ashamed, simply ask the priest to assist you. Be assured that he will help you to make a good confession. Simply answer the questions he might ask you without hiding anything out of shame or fear. Place your trust in God who is your merciful Father and wants to forgive you.
5. When you finish confessing your sins, say: "...and I am truly sorry for all my sins."
6. The priest will then give you some words of advice and/or encouragement to help you become a better person and a more faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.
7. Following this, he will assign you a penance which you are to do when you leave the confessional. It might be something like saying a few prayers, doing an act of charity, or making some sacrifice.
8. After giving you the penance, the priest will ask you to say the Act of Contrition. You may say whichever one you know. If you do not know an Act of Contrition, ask the priest to assist you.
9. The priest will say the Prayer of Absolution. Listen attentively to that prayer, bless yourself as he makes the Sign of the Cross and at the end of the prayer, answer, "Amen."
10. After giving you absolution, the priest will say, "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace." and you respond, "Thanks be to God."

AFTER CONFESSION:

1. Say a prayer of thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for the gift of his infinite mercy and for the sacrament you have just received.
2. Do your penance. It is advisable that you do your penance as soon as possible so that you will not forget to do it.

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- **Father Chris Alar** - *Speaker*
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SURVEY

Rate the conference: (circle your answer

1 Poor 2 Average 3 Good 4 Divine!

What did you like best about the conference?

What would you like to see added to the conference?

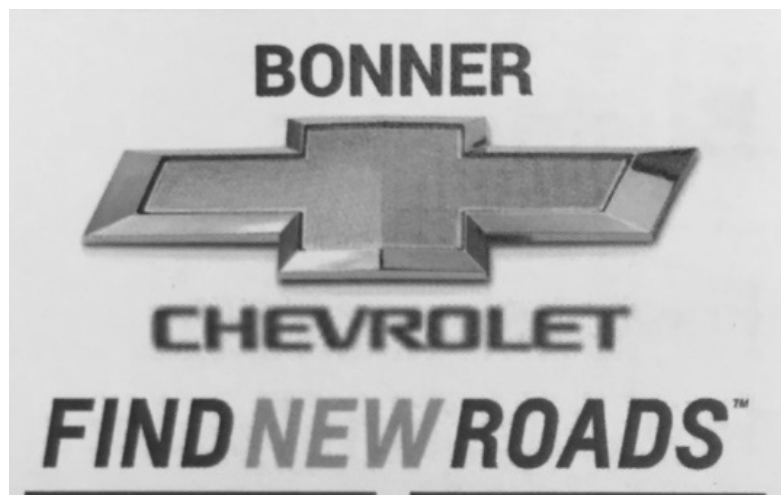
What topics would you like to see covered?

Which speakers would you like to hear in the future?

Comments

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