



Misericordia motus est.  
"He was moved with mercy."  
(Luke 15:20)

# Congregatio Presbyterorum a Misericordia **The Fathers of Mercy**

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Auburn, KY 42206

[www.fathersofmercy.com](http://www.fathersofmercy.com)

*Preaching Roman Catholic Missions Since 1808*

*A Novena in Honor of St. Joseph, Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary & Patron of the Universal Church,  
will be offered for you and your intentions March 11-19, 2020*



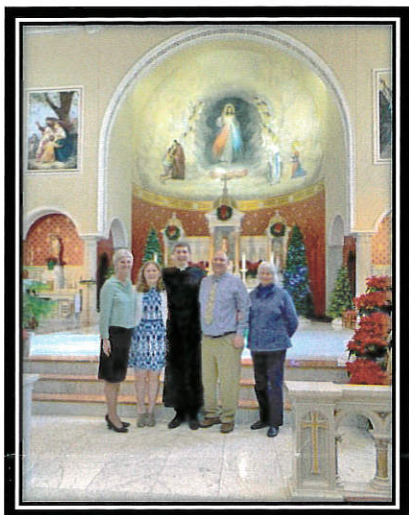
**A Happy New Year At The Fathers of Mercy!**



*Priests, brothers and novices of Fathers of Mercy gathered for the  
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
in the Chapel of Divine Mercy, Auburn, KY.*



## The Fathers of Mercy Welcome the First Profession of Vows by Br. Zachery Feldker, CPM



**Br. Zachery pictured with his family in the Chapel of Divine Mercy on January 1, 2020.**

On January 1, 2020, the Fathers of Mercy welcomed another young man into the consecrated life. Br. Zachery Feldker professed the three vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience in the presence of members of his new religious community. Also present were members of his family along with friends of the Fathers of Mercy who gathered to honor Mary, the Mother of God and to pray for Br. Zachery's vocation as a Father of Mercy.

Br. Zachery grew up in Bloomington, IL the oldest son of Kirsten and Clemens Feldker. He was involved in a variety of academic and sporting activities during his primary and secondary school years. In 2015, he graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. It was at that time Br. Zachery began listening more closely what God was asking him to do to fulfill His Divine Plan. He describes his call to the priesthood: *"I would say I first sensed a call to the priesthood around 2<sup>nd</sup> grade while preparing for First Communion and again in 7<sup>th</sup> grade while preparing for Confirmation. I began to more seriously discern this call my last semester of college in 2015. God's Providence then led me to join SPIRITUS Missionaries and while serving there I encountered the Fathers of Mercy at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. After many repeated visits to the Shrine, I began to sense a calling to religious life and the Fathers of Mercy."*

Br. Zachery experienced ups and downs as he

discerned God's plan for his life. These struggles caused him discouragement at times. Eventually these doubts gave way to a deeper peace, because he sensed that God was calling him to be a member of the Fathers of Mercy: *"The mercy of God restored how I view myself. After college I doubted if I even could potentially become a priest due to my sinfulness. I viewed myself much as the Prodigal Son viewed himself, no longer worthy to be called a son of God, only a servant. God's mercy and love received through my fellow SPIRITUS missionaries and a series of good Confessions restored my baptismal identity as a beloved son of God. This occurred during the Jubilee Year of Mercy while I learned of the message of Divine Mercy, proclaiming it repeatedly on retreats. My own experience of God's mercy in that year and the repeated proclamation of the Divine Mercy moved my heart for others to come to know that same Mercy."*

Br. Zachery entered the postulancy for the Congregation in July of 2018, after which he entered the yearlong novitiate on January 1, 2019. Having professed vows, he will begin studies for the priesthood at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

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**Your kind donation helps to support the  
Fathers of Mercy seminarians. Thank you  
for your generosity!**

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*Seminarians for the Fathers of Mercy*



**Fr. David Wilton (Superior General), Br. Joseph Morgan, Br. Zachery Feldker, Br. Maximilian Combs, Br. Michael French, Rev. Br. Nathanael Mudd, Fr. Tony Stephens (Student Master).**



## Seminarians Attend the March For Life

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life was held once again in Washington, DC, on January 24, 2020. The seminarian brothers of the Fathers of Mercy were able to attend the event, gathering with thousands of other pro-life witnesses to protest legalized abortion in the United States of America. Those gathered for the Rally for Life on the National Mall were encouraged by the presence of the President of the United States, Donald Trump. It was the first time that a sitting president had ever attended the March for Life in its 47 year existence.



### *Fathers of Mercy brothers attended the March for Life, with fellow seminarians from Mt. St. Mary's.*

The pilgrims at the March for Life prayed for an overturning of Roe vs. Wade and an end to legalized abortion. They also prayed for those whose hearts have been hardened and deny the reality that abortion is the intentional taking of an innocent human life. Allowing for it only perpetuates an atmosphere in our world that stifles authentic love of God and love of neighbor. As the future priests and teachers in the Catholic Church, it is crucial that these men have clear in their minds how important it is that they be fearless witnesses in promoting the Culture of Life. Of the different important human rights issues that cycle through the news headlines, none is as important as defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The seminarians grasped the seriousness of the cause and the consequences of not speaking out to defend the unborn. Br. Michael French stated, *"Each year after I've actually started walking in the March, the reality hits me: I'm making a statement full of meaning, that each human life has dignity, purpose, and eternal consequence. And I'm thankful for these opportunities."* Br. Joseph Morgan: *"As a Father of Mercy, I think it is important to stand with the laity on the front battle lines for life, protecting the unborn*

*who are in imminent danger of losing the precious gift bestowed upon them by their Creator and at this moment are in most need of God's mercy."* Rev. Br. Nathanael Mudd offered his thoughts on gathering in the nation's capital for the event: *"As some on the March for Life like to point out, one can also provide witness by praying outside of abortion mills. But as members of the Church militant, still fighting here below, it is a great boost of morale to experience that there are hundreds of thousands of other people also fighting the same cause, to save the souls of parents and the lives of babies."*

Some may ask the question: why spend the time or money on going to the March for Life? Couldn't the money spent to organize and attend the event be better spent by giving it to pro-life organizations who witness to the value of life (crisis pregnancy centers, homes for unwed mothers, etc.)? These questions, while valid, slip into a trap of reducing the pro-life efforts to a matter of dollar signs. It is certainly necessary to have the monetary support to sustain and grow pro-life initiatives. The reason the pro-life movement came into existence is because of a blatant disregard for the Divine Life in the life of a newly conceived child. Abortion promoters have reduced an unborn child in the womb to an inanimate, unfeeling lump of tissue. They ask, *"If it is only a lump of material, why can't it be eliminated by abortion?"* Pro-lifers want everyone to see the natural and supernatural value in the newly conceived life. Yet a major component of promoting the pro-life and pro-family cause is to put love into action in a personal and faith-filled way. "Faith without works is dead" it says in the Letter of St. James (James 2:17).

How did God demonstrate His love for us? The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity went on a pilgrimage, stepping from Eternity into time, and dwelt among us. His 33-year pilgrimage took him from Bethlehem, to Nazareth, and finally to Jerusalem, where His pilgrimage ended on Golgotha. He showed us love by going out of His way to love us. He did so by becoming Incarnate, and putting His love into action in a personal way. Love cannot be purchased with money; love is seeking the good of the other, and that kind of love takes on shape in concrete actions. Though many pilgrims are blessed with relatively comfortable modes of transport and accommodations, the trip to the nation's capital is truly a pilgrimage to witness to the belief that God is the author of life, and that life is sacred.

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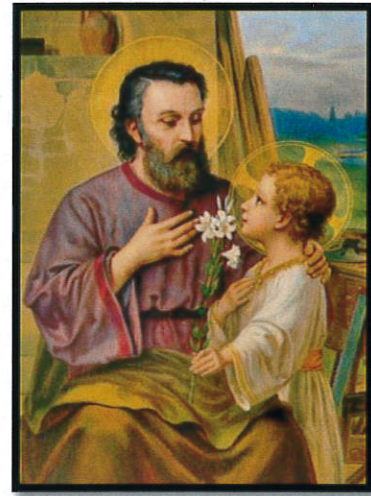


## **From *Redemptoris Custos***

**By St. John Paul II**

St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. It is precisely in this way that, as the Church's Liturgy teaches, he "cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation" and is truly a "minister of salvation." His fatherhood is expressed concretely "in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it; in having used the legal authority which was his over the Holy Family in order to make a total gift of self, of his life and work; in having turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of self, an oblation of his heart and all his abilities into love placed at the service of the Messiah growing up in his house."

In recalling that "the beginnings of our redemption" were entrusted "to the faithful care of Joseph," the Liturgy specifies that "God placed him at the head of his family, as a faithful and prudent servant, so that with fatherly care he might watch over his only begotten Son." Leo XIII emphasized the sublime nature



of this mission: "He among all stands out in his august dignity, since by divine disposition he was guardian, and according to human opinion, father of God's Son. Whence it followed that the Word of God was subjected to Joseph, he obeyed him and rendered to him that honor and reverence that children owe to their father." Since it is inconceivable that such a sublime task would not be matched by the necessary qualities to adequately fulfill it, we must recognize that Joseph showed Jesus "by a special gift from heaven, all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know."

Besides fatherly authority over Jesus, God also gave Joseph a share in the corresponding love, the love that has its origin in the Father "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" (Eph 3:15). The Gospels clearly describe the fatherly responsibility of Joseph toward Jesus. For salvation—which comes through the humanity of Jesus—is realized in actions which are an everyday part of family life, in keeping with that "condescension" which is inherent in the economy of the Incarnation. The gospel writers carefully show how in the life of Jesus nothing was left to chance, but how everything took place according to God's predetermined plan. The oft-repeated formula, "This happened, so that there might be fulfilled...", in reference to a particular event in the Old Testament serves to emphasize the unity and continuity of the plan which is fulfilled in Christ.

With the Incarnation, the "promises" and "figures" of the Old Testament become "reality": places, persons, events and rites interrelate according to precise divine commands communicated by angels and received by creatures who are particularly sensitive to the voice of God. Mary is the Lord's humble servant, prepared from eternity for the task of being the Mother of God. Joseph is the one whom God chose to be the "overseer of the Lord's birth," the one who has the responsibility to look after the Son of God's "ordained" entry into the world, in accordance with divine dispositions and human laws. All of the so-called "private" or "hidden" life of Jesus is entrusted to Joseph's guardianship. ✚

### **Novena Prayer to St. Joseph**

**(Please pray with us from March 11-19, 2020)**

O Glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Merciful Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special favors we now implore...

O Chaste Guardian of Jesus Christ, The Word Incarnate, we have great confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

V. Glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bore toward Jesus Christ and for the glory of His name,  
R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

*-Let us pray-*

O Glorious St. Joseph, Spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, help us to be pure, humble and charitable in body, mind and soul, and to have perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be our guide, our father and our model through life, that we may merit to die in the arms of Jesus and Mary as you did.

***St. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart,  
pray for us!***