

The Eagle's Nest

ERCM, Vol 23

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Come Fly With Me



My dear youth and friends in Christ,
Sometimes we think we have to have everything together before we come to God—but that is not true. God meets us

right where we are.

His mercy is not for perfect people. It is for real people—for those who struggle, who fall, and who are trying to do better each day. No matter what you have done or what you are facing, God's mercy is always greater.

There may be moments when you feel weighed down by your past or unsure about your future. But God does not look at you the way the world does. He sees your heart, your effort, and your desire to change.

Like the eagle, we are called to rise—not because we are strong on our own, but because God is lifting us. His mercy gives us the chance to begin again, again and again.

So do not be afraid to turn to Him. Trust in His mercy. Start fresh today. Because with God, it is never too late to rise.

~Fr. Samy, Spiritual Director

Psalm 145:8—*"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in mercy"*.

Founder's Message



The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri (1265–1321)

Marking the 700th anniversary of Dante's death, the Pope used the opportunity in 2021

to encourage Catholics to read the book. Indeed, *The Divine Comedy*, written in Italian, has since been quoted numerous times in different languages, and its material has been used in various media, notably in the gripping movie, "Seven," which showcased Hollywood's upper echelon of elite stars such as Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt, Kevin Spacey, and Gwyneth Paltrow. It is, therefore, no wonder why our minds often instantly recall the Seven Deadly Sins—sloth, envy, greed, pride, gluttony, anger, and lust—which feature prominently in the book.

The question remains, however, "What then was the Pope's intention for us?" The answer may very well lie in the three books that make up *The Divine Comedy*: Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradiso.

Hell

No one who got to hell actually wanted to get into hell. Each one of them knew exactly what they were doing to stray from the "straight and narrow." When we

In Focus

This month reminds us of the power of mercy—

God meets us right where we are. No matter our past, we are never beyond His reach. His mercy brings healing, restoration, and a new beginning.

As a community, we are called to live that mercy through forgiveness, compassion, and love.



Fellowship Corner

April Recap: A Night of Gratitude

In April, ERCM gathered in person for Fellowship and Faith Night. Members and ambassadors came together around the table, creating a space for connection, reflection, and prayer. A special part of the



night was when each person shared what they were grateful for and took time to pray. We also reflected on

Divine Mercy—how the mercy of Christ has influenced our lives and continues to guide us each day. The evening was filled with peace, connection, and a strong sense of community.

Eagle Rising Catholic Ministry

Saint of the Month – St. Faustina Kowalska



St. Faustina Kowalska is known as the Apostle of Divine Mercy. Through her, Jesus revealed a powerful message to the world—that His mercy is

endless and available to all who trust in Him.

As a young nun, Faustina experienced visions of Jesus, who appeared to her with rays of red and pale light flowing from His heart. In these encounters, He asked her to spread the message of His mercy and to remind the world that no soul is too far gone to return to Him.

Jesus told her, “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.”

Through her obedience, this message reached the entire world, becoming a source of hope for millions.

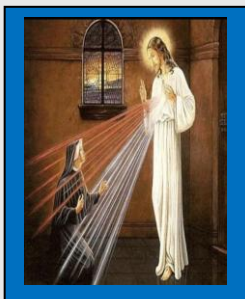
St. Faustina’s life reminds us that God does not wait for us to be perfect—He meets us in our weakness, our

struggles, and even in our failures. His mercy is not limited by our past, but opened by our trust.

Her story challenges us to turn back to God without fear, to trust in His mercy, and to believe that no matter how far we have fallen, we can always begin again. Just as St. Faustina answered the call to share God’s mercy, we too are called to live it—by forgiving others, seeking God daily, and trusting that His love is greater than any sin.

As we reflect on this season, St. Faustina reminds us that God’s mercy is always within reach, calling us to rise, to trust, and to begin again.

~Andrea, Chairperson~



Founder’s message continued.

sin, three things happen. First, we sin against God and God only. We disappoint our Creator. We do it through a hardening of our hearts from repeated deception, disobedience, and disbelief (Genesis 3:1–7; Hebrews 3:8–19). Second, we disrupt our communion with God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the special privilege that they had with God, where they walked with Him in the Garden of Eden. Third, we disrupt our communion with the Church. Adam and Eve lost their privilege to continue living in Eden. “Each person is tempted by his own desire. Then desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin...” (James 1:15). Therefore, when the path filled with temptation leads us to sin, avoid it. Yet even when we fall, God in His mercy calls us back to Himself.

Purgatory

The Church defines it as The Final Purification (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1030–32). It is for all who die in God’s grace and friendship but are still imperfectly purified. Purgatory is a means to assure their eternal salvation, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.



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Founder’s message continued.

It is a purification by a cleansing fire (1 Corinthians 3:15; 1 Peter 1:7). This purification itself is a sign of God’s mercy, preparing the soul for eternal life. Therefore, Purgatory is a gift from God. During the Reformation in the 16th century, many who protested against this teaching rejected this gift.

Heaven

Dante writes that in heaven, we stand in the light of God. All are moved and made lively by “The Love that moves the sun and the other stars.” Aided by this divine love, we are brought back to God. Indeed, “he who does not love does not know God: for God is love” (1 John 4:8). Dante points out the Blessed Mary, our Mother, and saints, who will accompany us in Paradise. Therefore, Heaven is the ultimate gift and should be the goal for each and every one of us.

It is by God’s mercy and love that we are led into this eternal union with Him.

The Divine Comedy provides a good reflection for us during this Lenten season. Let us mirror the teachings of the Church as we strive to be exemplary Christians to our families, our brethren, and our environment.

~Vic Joseph, Founder~

Luke 6:36 – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”.

OUR PRAYER

Lord, guide us to be of service to you and others. Inspire us to care for all your creation, especially the youth. Fill us with truth, hope and love in all that we do. Unite us to faithfully journey together with you, as we work to build Your Kingdom within our community.

~Serviam

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