

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND, ALBANY, LA - TALK 04/27/2014

"Family Stories of Divine Mercy in Times of Crisis"

A Louisiana Catholic woman finds her place in the New Evangelization by sharing family stories of Divine Mercy, particularly during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

Written by

Connie Anderson

REGISTERED WITH THE WGA EAST & WEST, 04/14/2014

Copyright 2014 QuickHelp Productions



1

THANKS AND INTRO

THANK YOU ALL FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU  
HERE ON THIS EXTRAORDINARY DAY OF GRACE,  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 2014, WHICH ALSO MARKS THE  
CANONIZATION OF BLESSED POPE JOHN PAUL THE  
SECOND AND BLESSED POPE JOHN THE TWENTY-THIRD  
BY POPE FRANCIS THE FIRST IN ROME.

I WAS VERY SURPRISED, BUT ALSO DEEPLY TOUCHED,  
THAT DEACON RICHARD GRANT RECOMMENDED ME TO  
DEACON JOHN AS TODAY'S SPEAKER. I AM NOT AN  
EXPERT ON, NOR AM I THE BEST EXAMPLE OF,  
DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY. HOWEVER, WHEN I  
REALIZED THAT BOTH POPES WERE TO BE CANONIZED  
ON THIS DAY, I ACCEPTED.

THESE TWO SAINTLY MEN AND THE DIVINE MERCY OF  
OUR LORD HAVE PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLES IN MY  
SPIRITUAL LIFE, BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF MY  
EIGHTH GRADE YEAR AT SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
SCHOOL IN DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

ALONG WITH MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA, WHO TO ME EXEMPLIFIES HOW TO SHARE GOD'S GIFT OF DIVINE MERCY, THESE TWO GREAT MEN EXEMPLIFY HOW TO PLEAD FOR GOD'S MERCY, NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IT IS FITTING THAT THEY ARE BOTH BEING CANONIZED TODAY ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. I SINCERELY HOPE MY PRESENTATION WILL BE A GOOD WITNESS FOR MY PERSONAL CONVICTION.

BEFORE I BEGIN MY PRESENTATION, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, WHICH MAY, AT FIRST, SURPRISE YOU. HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM OCTOBER 14-28, 1962, ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL OPENED IN ROME? HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER HOW THE CRISIS ENDED, AND WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO STOP IT?

I INVITE YOU TO REFLECT UPON YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, WHILE I SHARE SOME OF MINE.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO REMEMBER THESE EVENTS AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TOO YOUNG, I HOPE BY THE END OF MY TALK AND THE VIDEO YOU WILL SEE OUR LORD'S DIVINE MERCY SHINING IN YOUR OWN LIVES, AS WELL AS HEAR HIS CALL TO PRAY THE CHAPLET AND TO SHARE HIS MERCY WITH OTHERS, AS INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS A PARISH COMMUNITY.

2 THE COLD WAR COMES TO BATON ROUGE

AS A YOUNG, FAIRLY SHELTERED ADOLESCENT, I KNEW FROM STUDYING CURRENT EVENTS AT SACRED HEART (SCHOOL) ABOUT THE COLD WAR FOLLOWING WORLD WAR TWO, WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND ITS NATO ALLIES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE COMMUNIST-BLOCK NATIONS. THOSE LESSONS BECAME REAL IN 1961, WHEN I WAS IN THE 7TH GRADE.

THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE (OCD), WHICH WAS AN AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, WAS STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY EXACTLY WHY, THE SACRED HEART STUDENT BODY BEGAN TO WEAR MILITARY DOG TAGS WITH OUR UNIFORMS. WE ALSO HAD TO BE FINGER-PRINTED, AS ONE VOLUNTEER MOM INNOCENTLY, BUT THOUGHTLESSLY, EXPLAINED, SO 'WE COULD BE RECOGNIZED IF WE DIED IN A NUCLEAR BLAST!' (YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY LOTS OF US HAD FREQUENT NIGHTMARES BACK THEN!)

BY THE WAY, THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE WAS A PREDECESSOR TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, BETTER KNOWN WITH MIXED FEELINGS TO MOST LOUISIANANS AS FEMA.

3

**THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: LEAD-UP**

NOW THAT YOU KNOW, AND SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL, THE HEIGHTENED EMOTIONAL CLIMATE MY FRIENDS AND I GREW UP IN, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE MEMORABLE FALL OF 1962, DURING MY EIGHTH GRADE YEAR AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL, AND THE DIRECT EXPERIENCE MY FRIENDS AND I HAD OF OUR LORD'S DIVINE MERCY, WHICH LITERALLY WAS "AMAZING GRACE."

ON OCTOBER 4, MY FAMILY AND I CELEBRATED MY THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY. IT WAS AN EXCITING TIME FOR ME PERSONALLY, BECAUSE I WAS NOW A TEENAGER. IT WAS ALSO AN EXCITING TIME FOR THE WORLD, BECAUSE EXACTLY ONE WEEK LATER ON OCTOBER 11, SAINT JOHN THE TWENTY-THIRD OPENED THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL IN ROME. LITTLE DID MY FAMILY, I, OR THE WORLD KNOW THAT IN ONLY THREE SHORT DAYS OUR EXCITEMENT WOULD GIVE WAY TO FEAR, BECAUSE OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

IN ORDER TO HELP MY OWN RECOLLECTION, AS WELL AS TO GIVE YOU A CLEARER PICTURE OF THOSE TERRIFYING TWO WEEKS, I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH. I FOUND A VERY INTERESTING ARTICLE, PUBLISHED ONLINE BY ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER MAGAZINE. IT WAS WRITTEN WITH HELP FROM SAINT JOHN'S PERSONAL SECRETARY, LORIS FRANCESCO CAPOVILLA, WHOM POPE FRANCIS RECENTLY ELEVATED TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS IN FEBRUARY.

HERE'S A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHAT I FOUND. I HOPE IT HELPS YOU TO SEE HOW, IN THE LAST SEVERAL DECADES, OUR LORD HAS STRIKINGLY REVEALED HIS DIVINE MERCY TO US, NOT ONLY THROUGH SAINT JOHN PAUL, WHO HELPED TO SPREAD THIS DEVOTION GLOBALLY, BUT ALSO THROUGH SAINT JOHN, WHO HELPED TO SAVE OUR WORLD FROM NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION.

4

**THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: ST. JOHN & DIVINE MERCY**

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

ON OCTOBER 14, AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS DISCOVERED A BUILD-UP OF MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES IN WESTERN CUBA. ON OCTOBER 16, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, OUR FIRST CATHOLIC PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WERE OFFICIALLY BRIEFED ON WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A SOVIET-ASSISTED OPERATION. ON OCTOBER 22, THE SITUATION HAD ESCALATED SO DRAMATICALLY THAT THEY DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO GO PUBLIC.

IN A NATION-WIDE SPEECH, TELEVISED ON ALL THE MAJOR MEDIA NETWORKS AT 6:00 PM CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME, PRESIDENT KENNEDY ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REGARD "...ANY NUCLEAR MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM CUBA AGAINST ANY NATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AS AN ATTACK BY THE SOVIET UNION ON THE UNITED STATES, REQUIRING A FULL RETALIATORY RESPONSE UPON THE SOVIET UNION."

(MORE)



(CONT'D)

IT WAS A VERY GRAVE SITUATION, NOT ONLY FOR OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND FOR OUR WORLD, BUT ALSO FOR OUR AREA, WHICH WAS AND STILL IS A STRATEGIC TARGET BECAUSE OF ITS LARGE, DIVERSIFIED PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

ON OCTOBER 23, THE DAY AFTER THE U.S. QUARANTINE AND NAVAL BLOCKADE WAS IMPOSED ON CUBA, PRESIDENT KENNEDY SECRETLY SENT HIS FRIEND, NORMAN COUSINS, TO ROME. THE FOLLOWING DAY, OCTOBER 24, COUSINS SAW ARCHBISHOP IGINO CARDINALE AT HIS RESIDENCE, AND EXPLAINED THAT ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR SEEMED IMMINENT.

THE ARCHBISHOP IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED POPE JOHN, WHO SAID, "PREPARE ME A MESSAGE WHICH I WILL READ ON THE RADIO TOMORROW. IN THE MEANTIME, WHILE YOU ARE WORKING, I AM GOING TO PRAY."

THE ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER ARTICLE DESCRIBED THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS SO WELL, THAT I OBTAINED PERMISSION TO QUOTE FROM IT DIRECTLY:

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

"WHEN THE MESSAGE WAS READY, (OCTOBER 25) THE POPE WENT OVER IT, BUT DIDN'T FIND IT SUITABLE; IT WAS TOO COLD AND DIPLOMATIC. HE RE-WROTE IT ALL, EXCEPT THE LAST THREE LINES. IN THE END, THE MESSAGE CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING: 'WE BEG ALL GOVERNMENTS NOT TO REMAIN DEAF TO THIS CRY OF HUMANITY. THAT THEY DO ALL THAT IS IN THEIR POWER TO SAVE PEACE. THEY WILL THUS SPARE THE WORLD FROM THE HORRORS OF A WAR WHOSE TERRIFYING CONSEQUENCES NO ONE CAN PREDICT. THAT THEY CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS, AS THIS LOYAL AND OPEN BEHAVIOUR HAS GREAT VALUE AS A WITNESS OF EVERYONE'S CONSCIENCE AND BEFORE HISTORY. PROMOTING, FAVOURING, ACCEPTING CONVERSATIONS, AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ANY TIME, IS A RULE OF WISDOM AND PRUDENCE WHICH ATTRACTS THE BLESSINGS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.'

"THE FOLLOWING DAY, (OCTOBER 26) THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO BOTH THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES FOR APPROVAL.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

AT 7 A.M., KHRUSHCHEV SENT HIS AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER; AT 11 A.M., KENNEDY ALSO AGREED. IN THE AFTERNOON, THE MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED ON THE VATICAN RADIO STATION, RADIO VATICANA.

"THE NEXT DAY (OCT 27), IT FINISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF PRAVDA, THE OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, WITH THE TITLE: 'WE BEG ALL GOVERNMENTS NOT TO REMAIN DEAF TO THIS CRY OF HUMANITY.' "

YOU CAN REMEMBER, OR YOU CAN IMAGINE, HOW RELIEVED WE ALL WERE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED!

IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF PEACE, SAINT JOHN RECEIVED MANY AWARDS FROM A GRATEFUL WORLD, BEFORE HE DIED OF STOMACH CANCER A FEW MONTHS LATER ON JUNE 3, 1963.

5 **THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: ST. JOHN PAUL & DIVINE MERCY**

YOU KNOW, THE HOLY SPIRIT OFTEN SURPRISES ME.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

ALTHOUGH I HAD ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION TO SPEAK WITH YOU MANY MONTHS AGO, IT WAS ONLY AS I WAS PREPARING MY TALK, THAT I REALIZED THAT ALSO PRESENT IN ROME FOR THE VATICAN COUNCIL'S OPENING WAS THE YOUNG AUXILIARY BISHOP OF KRAKOW.

NOW KNOWN AS SAINT JOHN PAUL, BISHOP KAROL WOJTYLA WAS THEN THE YOUNGEST BISHOP IN POLAND, AND WAS STILL RELATIVELY UNKNOWN. TWENTY-TWO YEARS EARLIER IN 1940, WHEN HE WAS SECRETLY STUDYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD, SAINT JOHN PAUL LEARNED ABOUT JESUS' PRIVATE REVELATIONS TO SAINT MARIA FAUSTYNA KOWALSKA, WHO WAS CHOSEN BY OUR LORD TO BE HIS FIRST APOSTLE OF THE DIVINE MERCY.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT FOUND ANY CONCRETE PROOF, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY PROBABLE THAT SAINT JOHN PAUL HEARD SAINT JOHN'S RADIO APPEAL FOR PEACE.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

AS A RESULT OF SAINT JOHN PAUL'S LONG-TIME LOVE FOR JESUS' DIVINE MERCY, I ALSO BELIEVE IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT HE PRIVATELY PRAYED THE CHAPLET OF MERCY ALL THROUGH THIS URGENT TIME.

YOU WILL HEAR MORE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT SAINT JOHN PAUL, SAINT FAUSTINA, AND THE DIVINE MERCY IN MY DOCUMENTARY, WHICH IS COMING UP IN A FEW MINUTES .

6 **LIVING MERCY: INSPIRED BY A 1ST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR**

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU BACKGROUND ON HOW THE REMARKABLE EVENTS OF 1962 LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR **LIVING MERCY**, WHICH DEPICTS HOW THE NOVENA TO THE DIVINE MERCY HAS IMPACTED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH IN BATON ROUGE.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

THREE YEARS AGO IN 2011, WHILE I WAS ATTENDING ONE OF THE NOVENA'S NINE EVENINGS OF PRAYER, I HAD A "GOD-INCIDENCE," A VERY BRIEF FLASHBACK TO SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER SECOND, ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS HAD ENDED. THE MAIN MEMORY I HAVE OF THE CRISIS' TWO WEEKS OF TERROR WAS THE QUIET COMFORT OF THAT HOUR OF THANKSGIVING, WHICH FEATURED SILENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GENTLE GRACE TOUCHED ALL WHO WERE PRESENT.

REMEMBERING THE PEACE OF THE HOLY HOUR AND EXPERIENCING THE PEACE OF THE NOVENA WAS MY IMPETUS TO PRODUCE THE DOCUMENTARY, **LIVING MERCY**. I MADE SURE TO INCLUDE VIDEO OF OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL'S HOLY HOUR, WHICH INCLUDES THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

**LIVING MERCY** PREMIERED ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012, LOCALLY ON CATHOLIC LIFE TELEVISION AND NATIONALLY ON THE BOSTON-BASED CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK. IT DEBUTED INTERNATIONALLY ON FEB. 15, 2013 ON THE ETERNAL WORD (GLOBAL CATHOLIC) TELEVISION NETWORK, AND RE-AIRED ON OCT. 5, 2013, THE FEAST OF ST. FAUSTINA.

I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT DVDS OF THE VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EWTN'S ONLINE CATALOGUE. ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT EWTN'S MEDIA MINISTRY.

7 THANKS & CLOSING REMARKS

BEFORE I BEGIN THE VIDEO, I WISH TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION, (TBA) HAS SEVERAL TYPES OF FLYERS, AS WELL AS HAS INFORMATION ABOUT SAINT MARGARET'S RECENTLY FORMED CHAPLET PRAYER GROUP.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

THERE ARE ALSO FLYERS ABOUT ORDERING **LIVING MERCY** DVDS FROM EWTN.

IT HAS BEEN A JOY AND A PLEASURE BEING WITH YOU, AND I WISH THAT OUR LORD ABUNDANTLY BLESSES YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES, DURING THIS WONDERFUL SEASON! AS A LAST TIE-IN WITH MY TALK, WHICH MAY ALSO SERVE AS A REMINDER FOR US TO PRAY THE CHAPLET, ESPECIALLY AS A THANKSGIVING PRAYER, SAINT JOHN PAUL'S FEAST DAY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR OCTOBER 22. THAT IS ALSO THE DATE IN 1962, WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE EXISTENCE OF MISSILES IN CUBA.

LET US CONTINUE TO ASK OUR LORD TO POUR OUT HIS DIVINE MERCY THROUGH PRAYERS OF MERCY, LIKE THE CHAPLET AND ALSO THE ROSARY. AND LET US CONTINUE TO SPREAD OUR LORD'S LOVE ACTIVELY THROUGH WORDS AND DEEDS OF MERCY - NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

WE WILL NOW BEGIN OUR VIDEO.