

NEWS

FROM THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY
EDEN HILL * STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01263

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

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MARIANS TO HOST DIVINE MERCY EVENTS APRIL 18, 19 ON EDEN HILL, AT HIGH SCHOOL

STOCKBRIDGE, Mass. — The Marians of the Immaculate Conception will host their annual celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend, April 18 and 19. Events will take place April 18 and 19, respectively, at Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington and at the nearby National Shrine of The Divine Mercy here on Eden Hill.

Approximately 15,000 pilgrims are expected to visit Eden Hill on Divine Mercy Sunday, a number that would make it the largest such gathering in North America. On Saturday, the Marians will sponsor a Divine Mercy Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the school.

The venue is a five-minute drive from Eden Hill. Participants will be required to use their own vehicles. There will be no shuttle service to Eden Hill that day.

The Saturday conference will feature three Marian presenters: Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC; Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC; and Br. Jason Lewis, MIC. Each is considered knowledgeable on the Divine Mercy message. The event will include book signings and a chance to meet the Marians. Lunch will be provided.

Following lunch, pilgrims will have the afternoon free to take in activities on Eden Hill and attend the Vigil Mass later that day at 4 p.m. at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine on Eden Hill. To register for the conference, call toll-free 1-800-671-2020 or e-mail jfoster@marian.org.

For more than 25 years, the Marian Fathers and Brothers have been welcoming pilgrims to their provincial home on Eden Hill to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. According to Shrine Rector Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, this year's celebrant for the 1 p.m. Solemn Liturgy on Divine Mercy Sunday will be the Most Rev. Edward Ozorowski, Archbishop of Bialystok, Poland, in whose archdiocese Blessed Michael Sopocko, St. Faustina's confessor and spiritual director, was beatified Sept. 28, 2008. The archbishop will bring with him a first-class relic of Blessed Michael as a gift to the National Shrine.

Carol Scott, pilgrimage director for the Marians, advises visitors to come prepared for the unpredictable spring weather of the Berkshires. That includes comfortable shoes with good traction and layered clothing that can be adjusted for temperature and weather.

On Saturday and Sunday, tents will be set up for prayer, activities, confessions in many languages, Eucharistic Adoration, and the gift shop. In addition, food and refreshments will be offered for purchase. There will also be first aid stations and outdoor bathrooms.

Pilgrims may park on Eden Hill Saturday only. On Sunday, only cars with special permits will be allowed to park on site. Sunday pilgrims without special parking passes should park in one of the nearby satellite parking areas. The Marians will provide shuttle bussing to Eden Hill from the satellite areas. Major roadways leading into Stockbridge will have signs for directions to the shuttle parking areas.

EWTN, the global Catholic cable network, will provide TV coverage of the Sunday Mass.

Busses must register with the shrine office at www.thedivinemercury.org or by calling 1-413-298-1118. Those attending by car do not need to register.

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MEDIA NOTES:

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