

# SAINT REMY CATHOLIC CHURCH

108 E. MAIN STREET, RUSSIA, OH 45363-9701

**Phone:** 937-526-3437 or 937-526-5326

**E-mail:** [stremy@roadrunner.com](mailto:stremy@roadrunner.com) • **Website:** [www.stremychurch.com](http://www.stremychurch.com)



**MAY 1**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. Martin Fox.....Pastor ([StRemyPastor@gmail.com](mailto:StRemyPastor@gmail.com))  
Deacon Mike Meyer.....Deacon ([mikem@bfvcatholic.org](mailto:mikem@bfvcatholic.org))  
Mrs. Maria Hoehne.....Secretary ([stremy@roadrunner.com](mailto:stremy@roadrunner.com))  
Mrs. Carla Meyer.....Music Minister/Bulletin Editor ([stremymusic@roadrunner.com](mailto:stremymusic@roadrunner.com))  
Mrs. Karen Rosenbeck.....Coordinator of Religious Education ([stremydr@roadrunner.com](mailto:stremydr@roadrunner.com))  
Mr. Mark Travis .....Youth Director ([markedtravis@gmail.com](mailto:markedtravis@gmail.com))  
Mrs. Gina Hoying.....Youth Director Assistant ([mghoying@gmail.com](mailto:mghoying@gmail.com))  
Mr. Jack Swartz.....Maintenance Manager ([theswartzs@roadrunner.com](mailto:theswartzs@roadrunner.com))

## MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 P.M. • Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M., & 11:00 A.M.  
Weekdays, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 8:15 A.M., Wed.: 6:15 P.M.  
First Fridays: 7:00 A.M.  
Holy Days: vigil 5:30 P.M., 7:00 A.M., 11:45 A.M., & 7:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted

**New Parishioners:** Please register at the rectory office as soon as possible.

**Marriage:** Diocesan guidelines require that you contact a priest at least 6 months in advance of the proposed ceremony. Pre-marriage instructions and NFP classes are required.

**Baptism:** Please make arrangements by calling the rectory office. A Pre-Baptismal Class is required and is offered four times per year. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

**Confessions:** Tuesdays: 9:00-9:15 A.M.

Wednesdays: 5:00-6:10 P.M.

Thursdays: 3:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. , 7:00 P.M.-8:20 P.M.

Saturdays: 9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M., 3:30 P.M.-4:45 P.M.

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.- 10:50 A.M. ~ Check for any change in the schedule on page 1.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Call (937)526-3437 any time, day or night, in case of emergency.

**Blessing for Expectant Mothers:** First Sunday of the month after the 11:00 A.M. Mass.

**Natural Family Planning Info:** Kent and Heather Borchers, (937)451-8363.

**Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration:** Thursdays: 9:00 A.M.-8:30 P.M.,  
with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 P.M.

**Help for Unplanned Pregnancies:** Connie McEldowney at Rustic Hope, Russia, (937) 526-4336; Elizabeth New Life Center, Sidney, (937)498-4425, [www.elizabethnewlife.org](http://www.elizabethnewlife.org).

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE:** Tuesday, 12:00 P.M.

## Pastoral Council:

Deanna Ball (937)570-5426  
Angel Borchers (937)489-4655  
Robin Caldwell (937)901-8337  
Laura Counts (937)658-3687  
Danielle Francis (937)418-9397  
Levi Francis (937)248-9046  
Nick Fullenkamp (937)369-1681  
Joe Sapp (937)419-1407  
Aaron Schmitmeyer (937)417-9411  
Pat Sherman (937)638-9564  
Mike Stueve (937)418-3324  
Jeffie Voisard (937)621-4216

## **To reserve St. Remy Hall call:**

Lynn Drees  
(937)638-4259

# SCHEDULES, EVENTS & DAILY READINGS

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 30—MAY 8

- 30 Sat:** 5:00 p.m. Clarence & Emma Marker (Wed. Anniv.) & Bill, Ginny, & Don Butsch
- 01 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
9:00 a.m. Ed Sherman  
11:00 a.m. Jim & Madonna Cohee
- 02 Mon:** 8:15 a.m. Tod & Wilma (Birthday) Monnier
- 03 Tues:** 8:15 a.m. Marion, Emily, & Philip Grillot  
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 04 Wed:** 5:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
6:15 p.m. Ronald Jones
- 05 Thurs:** 8:15 a.m. Ed & Jackie Barlage  
3:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
3:10 p.m. Children's Eucharistic Adoration  
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 06 Fri:** 7:00 a.m. **First Friday**—For Vocations  
6:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 07 Sat:** 8:15 a.m. **First Saturday**—Bob Schaub & Nancy Wood  
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
3:30 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Barb & Augie Cordonnier Family
- 08 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Bill Paulus, Ed Zircher, & Ken Zircher  
9:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Monnin  
10:30 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
11:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

## MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 7-8

### SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. Isabella Magoto & Gabriel Fullenkamp  
7:30 a.m. Xavier & Samuel Phlipot  
9:00 a.m. Michael Bell, Zeb & Eli Borchers, Jared Poling, Zeb & Malaki Borchers  
11:00 a.m. Mackenzie Rose & Andrew O'Dell

### LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Roger Borchers  
7:30 a.m. Vern Siefing  
9:00 a.m. Joan Bergman  
11:00 a.m. Angie Heaton

### DISTRIBUTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Deacon Meyer  
7:30 a.m. Deacon Meyer  
9:00 a.m. Deacon Meyer  
11:00 a.m. Deacon Meyer

### COLLECTION COUNTERS

Barney & Sonja Francis, Jana Francis

*Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord, be my helper. You changed by mourning into dancing; O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.*  
~From today's Psalm



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is held every Thursday, beginning at the conclusion of the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and ending with Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

### WEEKLY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

- Tuesday: 9:00—9:15 a.m.  
Wednesday: 5:00—6:10 p.m.  
Thursday: 3:00—4:00 p.m., 7:00—8:20 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00—10:00 a.m., 3:30—4:45 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:30—10:50 a.m.

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- Knights of Columbus—3rd Monday of the month (May 16) at 8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- Children's Adoration—every Thursday from 3:10-4:15.
- Pastoral Advisory Council—4th Tuesday of every other month (May 24) at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society—2nd Wednesday of the month (May 11) at 7:00 p.m. at the Russia Library.
- Catholic War Veterans—3rd Wednesday of the month (May 18) at 8:00 p.m. at the CWV Hall.
- Patriotic Rosary—will be prayed every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., as well as on the 1st Friday of the month (May 6) following the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Blessing for Expectant Mothers—will take place in church following the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- |                     |  |                                  |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>This Sunday:</b> | Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41<br>Rv 5:11-14<br>Jn 21:1-19   | Third Sunday<br>of Easter        |
| <b>Monday:</b>      | Acts 6:8-15<br>Jn 6:22-29                          | St. Athanasius                   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>     | 1 Cor 15:1-8<br>Jn 14:6-14                         | Sts. Philip & James,<br>Apostles |
| <b>Wednesday:</b>   | Acts 8:1b-8<br>Jn 6:35-40                          | Easter Weekday                   |
| <b>Thursday:</b>    | Acts 8:26-40<br>Jn 6:44-51                         | Easter Weekday                   |
| <b>Friday:</b>      | Acts 9:1-20<br>Jn 6:52-59                          | Easter Weekday                   |
| <b>Saturday:</b>    | Acts 9:31-42<br>Jn 6:60-69                         | Easter Weekday                   |
| <b>Next Sunday:</b> | Acts 13:14, 43-52<br>Rv 7:9, 14b-17<br>Jn 10:27-30 | Fourth Sunday<br>of Easter       |

# WHAT DOES FATHER FOX SAY?

***Here are the results of the local participation in the upcoming synod.*** Last week I received a copy of the report—which is also available online at <https://catholicaoc.org/synod>—summarizing what was discussed and shared at a series of meetings held in January and February of this year. This is all part of a worldwide preparation for an upcoming “Synod on Synodality” to be culminated in a meeting of bishops from around the world in October, 2023.

Of course, a “synod on synodality” is confusing, but the point is that Pope Francis is trying to encourage more “listening” and “accompanying” by church leaders.

Here are some things that stood out to me in the report.

Approximately 1,700 people attended the various meetings in every part of the diocese.

Less than 1% were under 19; about 13% were under 24. Almost 2/3rds were over 50.

***Clergy and members of religious orders were hugely over-represented,*** at about 9% of all participants. FYI, I did not attend. I wasn’t able to, and in any case, I thought the meeting was meant for laity, not clergy.

Several times the following terminology was used: “What steps is the Holy Spirit inviting us to take?” That strikes me as rather arrogant; how can I (or anyone) claim to speak for the Holy Spirit? If I tell you the Holy Spirit says thus-and-so, doesn’t that make it awkward for you to disagree?

***There were several observations about better efforts for those with disabilities.*** For example, if you are deaf and only use sign language, there aren’t many priests who understand sign language; if you are blind, what about materials in Braille? Let me pause to explain that such a language barrier does not prevent me from receiving your confession and giving you absolution. In the case of a deaf person, I’d write out things like, “Your penance is such-and-such” and “Say an act of contrition” and “I will now give you absolution.” But that said, it is much nicer to know the priest understands you.

One concept that I heartily endorse: “Training in friendship/neighborhood evangelization to teach people how to invite and welcome others.”

***I found it notable that several people suggested things that have already been done.*** For example, one suggestion was to do surveys about why people leave the Catholic Faith. In fact, quite a lot of such surveys have been conducted over the years.

One of the comments was that more efforts have to be made for “discussions” and “listening” and “feedback.” I don’t disagree, but I will observe that in my 19 years as a priest, I’ve seen quite a lot of such opportunities offered in various ways, and the number who took part was usually disappointing. The same thing happens with faith formation activities, which was another thing this report mentioned.

***Another idea put forward was doing more surveys of parishioners’ views.*** On this subject, I learned the hard way how this can be turned from a positive to a negative. In a prior assignment, I frequently surveyed parishioners. But where I dropped the ball (I apologize!) was in not making certain to communicate both the results of those surveys, and what, if any, impact those surveys had. I can attest that every time I did a survey, I carefully reviewed the results, and there’s no doubt in my mind they influenced my course of action.

However, it was only some time later I realized that, unless I told everyone that, from the perspective of most parishioners, no one had paid any attention. But here’s the more important takeaway: if you don’t have a good plan for what you do with the survey results, and how you will communicate your actions, don’t do the survey; you’ll irritate people.

At any rate, I invite you to go to the link provided above and read the report for yourself.

—Father Fox  
 StRemyPastor@gmail.com  
 (937)526-3437

# LIVE YOUR FAITH



The family receiving the **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** this Sunday is Alan and Kelly Schulze. The family receiving it the week of May 8 is Mike and Sara Stueve. Please pick up the chalice from the table inside the rectory door after Mass on Sunday, and return it to the same place the following Friday.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THE TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE AND RELATED MATERIALS INTO YOUR HOME?** Please see the binder in the back of church to sign up. This is a great tool to encourage vocations in your home, as well as to pray for our priests and for more vocations.



**ATTENTION STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-11:** If you would like to become a Mass server, please plan to attend the training sessions on Tuesday, May 17 and Wednesday, May 18 from 3:15-4:45 p.m. in church. It is necessary to attend on both days. Registration forms will be passed out during religion classes; please turn them in to Karen Rosenbeck at the parish office by May

11. For more information, please call Karen at the parish office at (937)526-3437.

**NOTE OF THANKS:** The family of Clarissa Barhorst wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the parish and community for all they did for the funeral of our Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma, and Great-Great-Grandma. Words cannot express how blessed we feel that she was so loved. We want to thank Father Fox for a beautiful Mass, Carla Meyer for the amazing music, the Mass servers, Danny Schneible for livestreaming the Mass, the ladies and gentlemen at St. Remy Hall for taking care of all the details for the luncheon, and all the members of the community who donated food. Our words cannot adequately express how blessed and fortunate we feel that Mom lived in such a generous and giving community.

~The Family of Clarissa Barhorst

Each year St. Remy hosts a **BACCALAUREATE BRUNCH** for graduating seniors and their parents. This special event will be held this year on Sunday, May 29 following the 9:00 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass. We are in need of parents of high school juniors to make breakfast casseroles and to help with the set-up, serving, and clean-up of the brunch. If you are willing to help, please call Maria at the parish office at (937)526-3437 or email her at stremy@roadrunner.com.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY



**Universal Intention:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.



Just a reminder that this Friday, May 6, is **FIRST FRIDAY**. For the benefit of all the students, Mass will be celebrated at **7:00 a.m.** To honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus, please make an effort to attend Mass on this day if your schedule permits.



**EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**, St. Remy's has a prayer vigil in Church. Please prayerfully consider participating in this prayer vigil as we implore God's mercy upon our families, our parish, our country, and the world. Feel free to come at

any point throughout the vigil as your schedule allows. The schedule is as follows:

- 6:00 p.m. ~ Scriptural Rosary & Confessions
- 7:45 p.m. ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with communal prayer of the Nine Offices of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 12:00 a.m. ~ Office of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 7:45 a.m. ~ Benediction
- 8:15 a.m. ~ Holy Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday)

## Message from Deacon Isaiah Callan



Greetings! Happy Easter! The Lord is risen, Alleluia! For some time, I have looked forward in anticipation to the day that I would have the chance to serve at the altar in Russia, Ohio, and it finally came! Last week, I had the opportunity to serve as a deacon for one of the first times. It was a blessed moment in itself and even more of a blessed experience to be able to share it with all of you. It was enjoyable and eye-opening. I still have a few things to work on. How about that dismissal at the end of the 9:00 a.m. Mass? Oof...Haha. We'll get there! I look forward to coming back and nailing it. I learned a lot and am grateful for the practical insights.

Now that I have some time to sit and breathe after the weekend, I can't help but reflect back with gratitude. So, I want to say a few things, some of which I have had on my mind prior to the weekend. Thank you, Father Fox, for the opportunity to serve as deacon at St. Remy so soon after ordination to the diaconate. I enjoyed serving with you and look forward to doing so in the future. Thank you, St. Remy, for all your support and prayers! Thank you especially for your prayers in the days immediately preceding the deacon ordinations. They were not without effect. They brought courage, clarity, peace, and perseverance. I could not have traveled this far so well without your help. I have appreciated getting to know many St. Remy families and am grateful for those relationships that have grown over the years through the workings of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for opening your hearts and homes so readily. Thank you for all the charity and support that y'all have shown me. I am grateful! Please know of my prayers during the Easter Season, and please continue to pray for me. I look forward to returning sooner rather than later.

In Christ,  
Deacon Isaiah Callan

# LIVE YOUR FAITH

## Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



This week's featured sponsor is  
**BOERGER ELECTRIC.**

Located in Fort Loramie, they are ready to help you with all of your electrical needs. Call them at (937)295-3381 to see how they can help you today!

We extend a sincere thank you to all of the businesses that advertise on the back cover of our bulletin. Their sponsorship covers the church's entire expenses in printing the bulletins each week.

Please call on these businesses when you are looking for products and services.

**Please remember to pray for the people listed in the St. Remy Prayer Intentions Book located in the back of church.**



PASTORAL  
COUNCIL

**NOMINATIONS**

At this week-end's Masses, the members of our parish had an opportunity to nominate parish-ioners to serve as members of

the Pastoral Advisory Council. A list of nominees will be compiled, and the election will be held the weekend of May 8-9. Each member elected will serve a 3-year term. Duties will include serving on a specific committee within the council, assisting with specific projects undertaken by the council, and attending regular monthly meetings.

WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD

AND IN GRATITUDE TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

JOYFULLY ANNOUNCES THE ORDINATION OF

**ETHAN MICHAEL PIUS HOYING**

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD

THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

AND THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY  
THE MOST REVEREND DENNIS M. SCHNURR  
ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST OF MAY

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-TWO

AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. PETER IN CHAINS

325 WEST EIGHTH STREET

CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

PUBLIC SEATING WILL BE AVAILABLE.

# RUSSIA COMMUNITY NEWS

**RUSSIA LOCAL SCHOOL IS HOLDING A PUBLIC MEETING** this Sunday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the school commons to seek community input on a potential building project. Everyone is invited to attend to learn more about the possibilities and to express your perspective.



**THE RUSSIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION IS SPONSORING RUSSIA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES** on Friday, May 6 from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 7 from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If you would like to host a garage sale and be included on the garage sale list at no cost to you, please send a Facebook message to Russia Wellness Foundation. A paper copy list of locations will be available at Buschur's Market, U.S. Bank, and the Post Office. St. Vincent de Paul will have a trailer in the church parking lot to accept your donations of **clothes and shoes only** from 12:00-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. Another trailer will be in the parking lot at the same time to accept donations of **other good used items**. Please have your donations sorted when you arrive.

**A NEW CIVIC MERIT PROGRAM** named the "Village of Russia Legion d'honneur" is accepting nominations for this coming year's first annual induction, currently scheduled for Spring of 2023. Nominate someone, living or deceased, who you feel has contributed to our community in a profound way. Nominations must be postmarked by August 15, 2022 and sent to Russia Local School at 100 School Street; they may also be dropped off at the school office by that date. See the village website at [www.russiaoh.com](http://www.russiaoh.com) for details, or contact Levi Francis at (937)248-9046.

# CCD & YOUTH MINISTRY



## Second Graders Invited to Saturday Servants!

Saturday Servants of Mary will meet on Saturday, May 7. Students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 are encouraged to participate in morning Mass at 8:15, join in the prayers after Mass, and head to the parish office basement for doughnuts and an activity, including Saint Bingo! The event will conclude at 10:30. **We are happy to invite the First Communicants this month!** For more information, contact Deb Timmerman at (937)526-5911.



## Events for Girls

The Rosa Mystica group (grades 7-8) will be going bowling for their last meeting of the school year. Please carpool, as transportation will not be provided. Permission forms will be required; they can be found on the table just inside the door to the parish office. Please bring your permission form, along with \$5 to help defray the cost of bowling, to the event.



## Events for Boys

Knights of St. Michael (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, May 2 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.



## Come to "Rosary and Doughnuts" Before School

All high school students are invited to come to church to pray the Rosary together before school on Friday, May 13 for the last time this school year. Please meet in church at 7:15 a.m. Following the Rosary, we will head to the parish office basement for doughnuts and beverages. Don't miss this great way to start the day with your friends!

## May Crowning and Last CCD Night for JH and HS



May Crowning will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in church **by all CCD students in grades 7-12 and the whole parish.** CCD students are asked to meet in their classrooms, then proceed to church and sit together as a class. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this parish event as we ask Mary to intercede for our families, our parish, and the world.



**All high school students who have participated in May Crowning** are invited to head over to the annual Concert in the Park that evening from 8:00-9:30 p.m. Don't miss live music by John Paul Von Arx, food, campfire, and outdoor games as we get together to thank God for all the opportunities and blessings of this school year!



## Help Needed with Totus Tuus Team

The Totus Tuus Team will be in town to inspire our youth with their camp in July. We need families to host the team for the evening meal from July 9 – 15. The team consists of 4 men and 4 women. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Mark Travis at (419)953-0614.



# Life Information For Everyone

## Transgenderism, Truth, & Human Dignity

The following article was taken from the Spring 2022 newsletter of Teachers Saving Children, Inc.: Pro-Life Voices in Education. For more information, visit [info@teacherssavingchildren.org](mailto:info@teacherssavingchildren.org).



Pro-life Americans understand the value inherent in every human being. When abortion was legalized in the U.S. in 1973, the family was immediately in danger of being attacked. The promotion for transgenderism as normal and its acceptance is yet another attack on objective truth and the family. Gender dysphoria, historically, has been a reality for a very small percentage (0.002-0.003 %) of biological females. In recent years, however, the percentage has increased 1,000% in the U.S. and 4,000% in Britain.

Mark Gavit, a 5th grade teacher in California, recently wrote about the challenges he faces with students who want to know the truth. What follows are some excerpts from his article:

*There is an identity crisis in our world today. Youth are curious, and they long to know the truth. But the truth is often not what the world proclaims. They long to know the truth of who they are, the truth of their bodies, the truth of what it means to be human. In the basic, most simple explanation, to be human means that (1) we are created male and female and (2) we were made in the image of God. What does it really mean to be made in the image of God? It means that we each reveal an aspect of God that no one else can. This is what sets us apart from animals. Human beings are made male and female in the image of God. This is our first and foremost identity. It pains a worldly, godless society to learn that we don't get to make up who we are or what it means to be human. We don't get to make up our own truth of what our bodies are for and what they reveal about our innermost being.*

*As humans, we have a biological sex and a gender identity. What happens of our gender identity doesn't align with our biological sex? This is called gender identity disorder. We are all wounded in one way or another. Individuals who feel they are trapped in the wrong body have wounds that need healing. It might be the woman who was abused as a young girl, began to hate herself and her body, and so identified with the masculine as a way of protecting herself from the pain. It might be the creative boy who was cruelly bullied and found no pathway into masculine identification and became intrigued with the dazzling icons of empowered women celebrities. Here is the key point: embracing a transgender identity does not heal the pain, it only masks the pain.*

*The TRUTH of our identity is revealed through our bodies, not our feelings. We must realize that there is objective truth that exists outside of ourselves. And that objective truth is that we were created male or female at the moment of conception. Gender reassignment surgery destroys the body. When we believe we have dominion over our bodies, we become our own god.*

*When people hear the truth spoken with love and charity, their hearts can be opened and powerful healing can take place. We are all wounded in one way or another, and we are all in need of healing. To begin to heal, we must take an honest look at our innermost self, our past experiences, and our deepest longings. We must open up our brokenness and reveal it all to Christ. He is the Divine Physician who is ready to heal.*

*You are an unrepeatable creation, a gift of life and love.*

## Continuing to Trust in God's Mercy



The following excerpt was taken from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska - Divine Mercy in My Soul*. The type in bold face represents the words of God.

“When I entered my solitude, I heard these words:

**‘At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the pardon is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion on My Son’**” (Diary of St. Faustina, 811).

Let us never fail to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who are preparing to meet the Lord.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

—Anne Frank



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