

# INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

## DO YOUR PARISHIONERS GRASP THE EXTENT OF JESUS' DIVINE MERCY?



Celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter Sunday—April 24, 2022—Divine Mercy Sunday was added to the Church calendar a little over two decades ago. As a recent feast, awareness and understanding of this beautiful teaching are still growing.

FORMED offers two programs to guide your parishioners through the revelation of Divine Mercy, help them understand the Divine Mercy message, and inspire them to participate in the Divine Mercy novena, the Hour of Great Mercy, and the partaking of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Sunday after Easter.



### **Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC**

In declaring the Feast of Divine Mercy, Pope John Paul II affirmed “how much the

world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy,” as expressed in five words: “Jesus, I trust in you.”

Fr. Michael Gaitley, renowned speaker and author, refers to Divine Mercy as “The second-greatest story ever told.” In ten

30-minute videos, he relates the dramatic history of God’s love and mercy as interwoven through St. Faustina’s transformative message, Mary’s miraculous appearance at Fatima, St. Maximilian Kolbe’s witness and martyrdom, and Pope St. John Paul II’s world-changing papacy.

A study guide with space for journaling makes this series conducive to small-group study.



### **Ocean of Mercy**

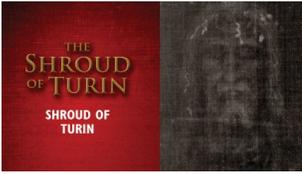
Filmed on location in Poland and the United States, this 75-minute documentary examines the lives of the

contemporary “Apostles of Mercy”: St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope St. John Paul II, through never-seen-before film footage, rare photographs, and interviews with friends, family members, and biographers.

This 75-minute film is an excellent introduction to the message of Divine Mercy for all.

# HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

FORMED continually strives to add content that ignites the faith of your parishioners. This April, consider highlighting these resources within your parish community.



## *Shroud of Turin*

As the Passion of Our Lord approaches, suggest that your congregation view this collection of four films—spanning 38 years—that delve into the mystery of Jesus’ burial cloth. These films touch on the miraculous nature of the Shroud, the religious significance of the single most-studied article in history, and the dubious carbon dating test often cited against the authenticity of the Shroud.

The foremost experts worldwide on the Shroud were involved with all four films, and British film producer/director David Rolfe’s film crews received unprecedented access to the Shroud to film it in high definition.



## *Real + True*

The team behind *Real + True* holds that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* “is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond.”

To impart that message, *Real + True* creates “beautiful, captivating, and relevant content” that is translated into multiple languages—including Spanish, French, and Portuguese—and provided for free.

In five- to six-minute videos, *Real + True* produces lively answers to common questions, such as “Is There a Plan for My Life?” The video “What the Catholic Church Actually Teaches, about Everything” breaks the *Catechism* down into four easy-to-understand pillars.

*Real + True* videos are an excellent supplement to sacramental preparation classes, youth ministry and young adults programs, and RCIA preparation.

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

To enrich your parishioners’ knowledge of and devotion to prominent saints who have April feast days, check out these resources on formed.org:



## April 25 *St. Mark*

What better way to begin a post-Easter spiritual practice and celebrate St. Mark’s feast day than to study the Gospel of Mark? In the LECTIO series *Mark: Faith Not Fear*, Dr. Tim Gray takes a close-up look at St. Mark and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians in Rome. In this powerful 14-part series, the AUGUSTING INSTITUTE’S artistry highlights Dr. Gray’s insights into an action-packed Gospel that offers St. Peter’s account of Christ’s life and teaching.

Available in English and Spanish, *Mark: Faith Not Fear* lends itself to small-group study with a leader’s guide and 232-page study guide, featuring questions, additional resources, daily reflections, and space for personal journaling.



## April 29 *St. Catherine of Siena*

For children, *Lukas Storyteller: Saint Catherine of Siena* provides an introduction to “an ordinary girl who decided to be extraordinary.”

St. Catherine of Siena’s life illuminated the virtue of respect—for her faith and beliefs. Through an easy-to-understand story about what happens when classmates do not respect one another, children see why the virtue of respect is important.

# SPOTLIGHT ON Real + True

Know any millennials who are not super-engaged in their Catholic faith?

If so, the team at *Real + True* wants to reach out to them through five-to-six-minute videos that explore the human experience, arouse spiritual curiosity, and explain the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in a beautiful and engaging way.

*Real + True* is the brainchild of Edmund Mitchell, Emily Mentock, and Edmundo Reyes. Millennials themselves, the three share the belief that “the heart of the *Catechism* is Jesus Christ,” Mitchell said. And flowing from that belief is their desire to make the *Catechism* come alive.

Not a program, *Real + True*’s videos are intended as a supplement for use in youth ministry, with young adult groups, or for parents whose children are in Catholic schools or sacramental preparation programs.

Mitchell, a self-admitted “class clown,” said that his own faith journey was one “from the head to the heart.”

He is featured in the video “What the Catholic Church Teaches, about Everything.” Mitchell leaps, laughs, and smooshes cake



**Edmund Mitchell**

as he explains that the *Catechism* has four parts: the Creed, sacraments, morality, and prayer. All point to Jesus Christ, “the love that never ends.”

In partnership with Our Sunday Visitor, *Real + True* creates its free videos in multiple languages—English, Spanish,

French, and Portuguese for now. Each pillar of the *Catechism* is divided into 12 units. Each month, a new unit is released, making the explanation of the *Catechism* in five-to-six-minute increments a four-year project.

“We want to have the first pillar—the Creed—completed by the 30th anniversary of the *Catechism* in 2022 and the 60th anniversary of the beginning of Vatican II,” Mitchell said.

*Real + True* videos are available in their multiple languages on [formed.org](http://formed.org) for ministry heads to use in their programs and for members of FORMED-subscribing parishes to share with family members—especially those millennials.





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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

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As Lent winds down and the Easter season begins, FORMED encourages you to make your final preparations for Easter with *The Shroud of Turin*, a collection of four films that explores the mystery of Jesus' miraculous burial cloth. Nevertheless, Lent will not go on indefinitely—the Easter celebration begins April 17! The Church, in Her wisdom, invites us to contemplate God's mercy during this season, especially on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24. Increase your devotion to and understanding of God's mercy with *Ocean of Mercy* and *Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley*. *Ocean of Mercy*, a 75-minute documentary, highlights God's Divine Mercy by zooming in on the lives of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope St. John Paul II—the great "Apostles of Mercy." *Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley* systematically unpacks the beautiful theology undergirding the teaching on Divine Mercy. In this season where we celebrate Christ's Resurrection, bolster your youth and young adult ministry programs with *Real + True*, a series of videos that unpacks the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in an engaging and convicting manner. During this Easter season, we hope that these resources, as well as the many others on FORMED, help you to encounter the Crucified and Resurrected Lord anew. As always, know that the FORMED team is praying for you and asks for your prayers as well.