



Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, signs an agreement with Mark Middendorf, co-founder of Lighthouse. Lighthouse and the Marians forged a relationship whereby Marian materials are now being offered through Lighthouse kiosks in 5,000 parishes throughout North America.

FELIX CARROLL

Divine Mercy resources for parishes

'Church kiosk' partnership helps Marians spread message to many more parishes.

by Felix Carroll

Catechesis by kiosk. It plays a huge role in the Church's evangelization efforts. Now, by the grace of God, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception are at the forefront of it.

The kiosks in question are those in the back of many churches that, traditionally, hold CDs, pamphlets, prayercards, and books on such topics as the Sacraments, forgiveness, devotions, and prayers. Parishioners are invited to avail themselves of the materials. God seems to do the rest.

Take, for instance, one young man who was contemplating suicide. Then, he listened to a CD obtained from a Lighthouse Catholic Media church kiosk. It helped to save his life, and he recently entered the seminary.

"If someone says one CD can't make a difference, we have story after story of how God uses it to change people's lives," says Mark Middendorf, co-founder of Lighthouse.

This brings us to one of the most exciting initiatives in recent years for the Marian Fathers. Earlier this year, Lighthouse and the Marians forged a relationship whereby Marian materials are now being offered through

Lighthouse kiosks.

The Marians will benefit from Lighthouse's presence in more than 5,000 parishes throughout North America. Indeed, since Lighthouse's founding eight years ago, it has distributed more than 8 million CDs alone that feature such names as Dr. Scott Hahn, Matthew Kelly, and Fr. Robert Barron.

"This is truly Divine Providence at work for us," says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

Blessed George's mission realized

The timing of the Marian-Lighthouse partnership is profound. It comes just as the Marians and Marian Helpers prepare this summer to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Congregation's first established house in the United States.

Such collaboration with the laity for the sake of evangelization is just the sort of effort Marian Renovator, Blessed George Matulaitis, would have encouraged as he established his renewed Congregation in America. (See the cover story.) In fact, since the Marians' earliest years in the United States, they have sought to realize

Blessed George's mission through such evangelization efforts, especially in publishing.

Through prayercards, newsletters, and pamphlets; books, such as the *Diary of St. Faustina*; films, such as *Time for Mercy*; DVDs, such as Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC's *Extreme Mercy*; magazines, such as *Marian Helper*, the Marians' publishing apostolate has helped attract hundreds of thousands of Marian Helpers. Many of those Helpers, in turn, spread the Marians' charism, which includes promoting the Divine Mercy message and devotion, praying for the souls in purgatory, and enkindling in others a greater devotion to Mary Immaculate.

Clearly, not a coincidence

As Fr. Michael suggests, Divine Providence stands as the only credible explanation for the collaboration with Lighthouse.

A little more than a year ago, Mark Middendorf had never heard of Fr. Michael. But in a single day, two people gave him Fr. Michael's bestselling book *33 Days to Morning Glory* (Marian Press, 2012) and recommended that Lighthouse distribute it. That very same day, Mark also received an e-mail from someone praising the book.

"I try to be open to the Holy Spirit," Mark says.

So he decided to call his good friend, Terry Barber, a fellow co-founder of Lighthouse and founder of Saint Joseph's Communications.

"Terry," said Mark, "what can you tell me about Fr. Michael Gaitley? Do you know him?"

"Know him?" responded Terry. "I'm having lunch with him today."

And so the relationship began.

That the connection came about through *33 Days to Morning Glory* — a do-it-yourself retreat of consecration to Jesus through Mary — could not have been coincidence either. It so happens Mark had been encouraging all of his employees, including Lighthouse's 600-plus account managers throughout the country, to make either St. Louis de Montfort's or St. Maximilian Kolbe's famous Marian consecration. That was before he read *33 Days*, which he now promotes.



There will be "Divine Mercy Resources" modules in Lighthouse kiosks in parishes. Also, look for materials on the Marians' Hearts Afire initiative.

In addition, Mark has a devotion to Divine Mercy, such that each weekday, the employees at Lighthouse's headquarters in Sycamore, Ill., pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together at 3 p.m.

"The Marians and we at Lighthouse share a common mission," says Mark. "This is all an answer to my prayers."

A great demand for Divine Mercy

Here is how the kiosk program works: For a nominal fee, parishes purchase materials through Lighthouse and then offer the materials for a suggested donation to parishioners.

Anticipating a huge hunger for the Marians' Divine Mercy materials, Lighthouse has introduced a new "Divine Mercy Resources" module that fits onto its freestanding kiosks.

In addition, the kiosks now promote the Marians' new Hearts Afire initiative — a small-group, parish-based, faith renewal program inspired by Blessed John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization."

"God has given us a great gift through our partnership with Lighthouse," says Fr. Michael. "Now we're able to reach even more of the laity. I can imagine Blessed George smiling down on us." **For parishes interested in installing kiosks, call Lighthouse Catholic Media at 1-866-767-3155. For those interested in starting the Hearts Afire program, call 1-877-200-HAPP or visit AllHeartsAfire.org.** MH

Bring the message of Divine Mercy to your parish



Invite the Marians to speak about Divine Mercy. For information, call 1-866-895-3236 or e-mail parishmissions@marian.org.