



## Cracow-Lagiewniki

# World Center for the Devotion of Divine Mercy

Every year more and more pilgrims come to Lagiewniki to pray and receive the sacraments.

Besides the chapel of the Congregation Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, which is home to the world-famous painting of the Merciful Jesus, the Shrine provides a House of Prayer (with accommodation facilities and a catering service) as well as premises suitable for retreats, conferences and meetings. An information bureau service is also available.

**Pilgrim groups interested in meeting the Sisters entrusted with the mission of spreading the Message of Mercy are kindly requested to make advance bookings by phone. Telephone: (+48) 12 2637997 [recepja@pastorallodge.com.pl](mailto:recepja@pastorallodge.com.pl)**

# Miracles

## through the Intercession of Saint Faustina

Maureen Digan enjoyed a normal, healthy childhood. At the age of 15 she was struck down by a very serious, degenerative disease called lymphedema. The condition is terminal and does not respond to medication; nor does it go into remission. Over the next ten years Maureen underwent fifty operations. Lengthy confinements kept her hospital-bound for up to a year at a time.

Friends and relations suggested she should turn to prayer and place her trust in God. But Maureen could not understand why God had allowed her to contract this disease in the first place. As a result, she had lost her faith. Eventually, her worsening condition required the amputation of one leg.

One evening, while Maureen was in hospital, her husband Bob went to see a film called "Divine Mercy, No Escape". There he became convinced of Sister Faustina's healing powers through intercessory prayer. Bob persuaded Maureen and the doctors that she should make a journey to the tomb of Sister Faustina in Poland. They arrived in Poland on March 23rd 1981. Maureen went to confession for the first time since she was a young girl. At the tomb (now the Shrine of Saint Faustina) Maureen remembers saying in her own inimitable style, "OK, Faustina, I came a long way, now do something". In her heart she heard Sister Faustina say: "If you ask for my help, I will give it to you." Suddenly, she felt as if she were experiencing something like a nervous breakdown. All the pain seemed to drain out of her body, and her swol-



len leg, which was due to be amputated shortly, returned to normal size.

Upon returning to the U.S.A. she was examined independently by five doctors, who concluded that she had been completely healed. They had no medical explanation for this sudden cure. The accumulated evidence of this miracle was examined in consultation with five doctors appointed by the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Having passed this test, her case was examined by a team of theologians, and finally by a panel of cardinals and bishops. The cure was accepted unanimously as a miracle brought about by Sister Faustina's intercession to the Divine Mercy. (Sister Faustina was beatified on 18th April 1993.)

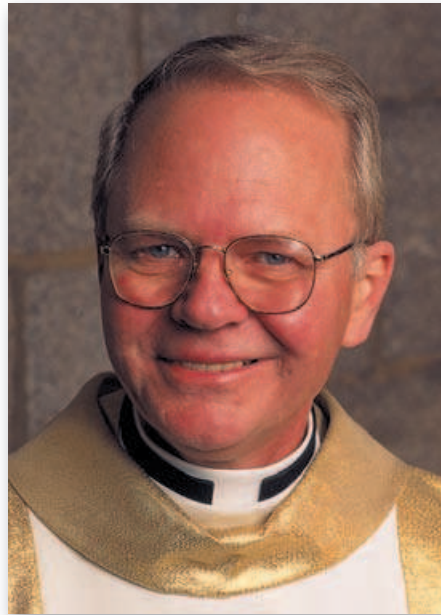
## The Miraculous Healing of Father Ronald Pytel

St. Faustina's canonization followed the miraculous healing of an American priest. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Vatican announced that the 1995 healing of Father Ron Pytel of Baltimore, Maryland, constituted a miracle. This set the stage for Faustina's canonization.

In 1995, a massive calcium build-up in Fr. Pytel's aortic valve as a result of a congenital heart condition left him with a permanently damaged left ventricle, a condition that is rarely known to heal and, if it does, occurs only after a very long time. His doctor, Dr. Nicholas Fortuin, a world-renowned cardiologist from Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, said that he expected Fr. Pytel's heart never to be normal and that the then 48-year-old pastor would likely never be able to return to the full exercise of his parish duties.

On Oct. 5, 1995, the anniversary of Faustina's death, members of Fr. Pytel's parish and some friends gathered for a day of prayer so as to seek his healing through Faustina's intercession. Upon venerating a relic of the saint, the priest collapsed to the floor, unable to move for about 15 minutes, although he remained conscious.

During Fr. Pytel's next regular check-up, about a month later, Dr. Fortuin dis-



Fr. Ronald Pytel

covered a sudden change in the condition of the priest's heart. It was now perfectly normal.

Soon after his healing, Fr. Pytel contacted Fr. Seraphim Michalenko MIC (a member of the Congregation of Marianists of the Immaculate Conception in Stockbridge, Massachusetts). As North America's representative for furthering Faustina's cause, he joined with church authorities to determine whether Fr. Pytel's cure constituted the miracle required for Faustina's canonization. He had played a similar role with regard to

the cure of Maureen Digan in the earlier beatification process.

## Professional Medical Opinion

On November 16th and December 9th, 1999, respective teams of medical and theological experts at the Vatican concluded their definitive investigation of Fr. Pytel's healing. The medical professional representing the postulators of Faustina's cause was Dr. Valentin Fuster, Director of Mt. Sinai's Cardiovascular Institute in New York City. He is regarded as the world's pre-eminent expert in the field of cardiovascular disease.

The medical doctors certified the healing as scientifically unexplainable, and the theologians verified that it was attributable to the intercession of Saint Faustina. The solemn promulgation of the decree establishing the fact of the healing as a miracle took place at the Vatican in the presence of Pope John Paul II on Dec. 20, 1999. The Vatican announced the canonization date on April 30 of the following year.

St. Faustina's life and her diary constantly remind us of Christ's infinite love for us. Jesus desires the salvation of each and every soul. There is no sinner alive who may not approach Him and be delivered from evil.

*Editors* ●

**Urge all souls to trust  
in the unfathomable abyss of My mercy,  
because I want to save them all.**

(St. Faustina's Diary, 1182)