

## **Sacrament of Mercy Initiative December 12, 2011 Summary Report**

The *Sacrament of Mercy* branch of the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate was formed with the approval of the Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan on February 1 of 2009 while he was Archbishop of Milwaukee. The purpose is to help bring about a rediscovery of the sacrament of Reconciliation through our personal encounter with Jesus Christ in this sacrament of His Mercy.

The following are specific activities of the *Sacrament of Mercy* branch.

1. For the year 2010:

The *Sacrament of Mercy* branch collaborated with the John Paul II Lifelong Faith & Ministry Formation Center of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to coordinate the *Season of Mercy* for the Archdiocese. 15 District Reconciliation services were held with Archbishop Jerome ListECKi presiding. Two major all day conferences were held consisting of the *Lord Have Mercy* conference with Dr. Scott Hahn and Matthew Kelly and the *Sacrament of Mercy* conference with an assortment of national speakers. All of these activities focused on the rediscovery of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

2. For the year 2011

The Sacrament of Mercy branch continued to co-coordinate the *Season of Mercy* for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. 4 Regional Reconciliation services were held with Archbishop Jerome ListECKi presiding.

3. New website launched in 2011 devoted to the rediscovery of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

This new website [www.SacramentofMercy.org](http://www.SacramentofMercy.org) will be continually updated. Presently, a Scripture section is being developed.

4. Production of various resources on the sacrament of Reconciliation in 2010

The *Sacrament of Mercy* branch co-produced the *Encounter with Mercy* booklet with Foreword by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali. First printing of 40,000 copies was distributed free to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The booklet is now into its 4<sup>th</sup> printing.

The *Sacrament of Mercy* branch produced the well received *Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ* brochure. Auxiliary Bishop Donald Hying was the principal author. Thousands of these brochures continue to be distributed.

5. Launch of national campaign for *Encounter of Mercy* booklet

In December of 2010, the Apostolate launched a national campaign to all Ordinaries of every Diocese of the United States to provide the *Encounter with Mercy* booklet at a low cost for bulk orders. The response has been outstanding and very encouraging.

Inspiring stories abound such as: An individual returns to the sacrament of Reconciliation only a few days after reading the booklet. Priests and penitents are using the booklet while going to the sacrament. A Diocese in Florida ordered 5,000 copies. A Diocese in Texas ordered copies for everyone receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

**Enclosures:** 3 sample copies for your Holiness of each of the following:

*Encounter with Mercy* booklet ( in English only )

*Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ* brochure ( in English and Spanish )

Promotion flyer for *Encounter with Mercy* booklet