



# Praise the Lord!

by Eddy Simon

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised" (Psalm 48). It was my intention to make this article pertain to Lent and then the Resurrection. I prayed as always asking the Lord to give me what He wanted me to write. I sat there for quite a while and nothing was coming to me. Then it struck me; this is Lent! It is our time in the desert place. So I began by writing that I didn't seem to have anything to write. In the desert place it can be hard to put our heart into saying, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." It is a time when consolation is lacking, a time when it seems we can't hear God's voice. It is a time when God withdraws our awareness of His presence so that our faith can grow, for without faith it is impossible to please God. Lent is the sacrifice that precedes the revelation of glory. So I started with nothing to write (the desert place, or Lent) and then a story came to my mind (the Resurrection).

One night I came back to the convent and headed up the stairs to the second floor where we take in homeless men. On my way up I encountered a man sleeping on the landing of the stairs (we'll call him Sean). It was late so I let him be and went on to my room. The next day when I saw him I introduced myself and brought him to my room to get his name and date of birth. I explained the simple rules and asked him what his situation was. He told me that he just got out of jail but he didn't have much else to say. I noticed that he seemed a little uneasy and unsure of himself. I told him that he couldn't sleep on the landing but instead had to come up into the hall. He said when he got here there wasn't anywhere else to lie down. I had to move on to other things so I told him we'd talk again later. Over the next several weeks and months I could not get him to come up into the hallway. He insisted on sleeping on the landing of the stairs. He almost never talked to anyone and even when he did you couldn't get him to respond more than two or three times. He wore the same set of clothes everyday and didn't wash them. There is a window on that landing. He spent almost all his time just staring out the window. The rest of the time he just stood out in the driveway. Finally one day one of the other residents came to me and said that Sean wouldn't let them go upstairs. So, I went to talk to him. I asked him why he wouldn't let the other guy upstairs. He said, "You told me not to let him in." I certainly never did but I couldn't convince him. I ended up having to call the police to take him to E.C.M.C. for evaluation. Well, a few days later he was back and still the same. Now the Lord had laid it on my heart that I had to take care of this guy because there really wasn't anyone else who was going to and he really had nowhere else to go.

Over the next couple of months with the help of several other people I tried to tackle another big problem. Sean had no I.D. and no ideas. He was in his mid thirties but wasn't sure where he went to high school. He remembered being in a hospital once but not which one. We were getting nowhere fast. I tried to get him to change his clothes. I went to the school and found some things. When I gave them to him he thanked me but he never put them on. Once I took him to my room and showed him a brand new shirt that someone had given me and asked him if he liked it. He looked at it, his eyes widened and he said, "Yeah," so I gave it to him. He took it but he never wore it. Well, after a few more months he resorted to keeping residents from entering again.

This time I managed to get Crises Services to come out with the police. They took him to E.C.M.C. but this time they must have found the right meds. When he came back I of course welcomed him and over the next week I noticed he was different. He was smiling a lot. He was much more sociable. He even started watching T.V. with some of the other guys. He started washing regularly and also helped clean the place up each day. Then one day our long and patient pursuit of I.D. paid off. I brought a piece of mail that had come for him and when he opened it there was his non-drivers license! He broke out into a big smile. I said, "Now if you want you can keep it on you or we could keep it in the office with your other paper work." He said, "I want to keep it on me." I asked him if he had a wallet or anything to keep it in. He said he didn't. So, I brought him to my room and showed him two brand new wallets. I asked him which one he wanted and he picked one.

About a week later I was walking toward him lying on his mat on the floor. I noticed as I approached that his wallet was sitting on his stomach. He had his head propped up with a pillow or something. I thought he was sleeping. When I got right next to him I saw that he was awake. I said, "Sean, I thought you were asleep there." He said, "No, I'm awake." I said, "Why do you have your wallet lying on your stomach like that?" He just looked up at me with this big smile and then looked back at his wallet and said, "I'm just looking at it. I thought to myself 'WOW.'" I said, "O.K. well, I just don't want you to fall asleep with your wallet like that." He assured me he wouldn't so I left. Anyone who has ever seen the movie "Radio" knows exactly how I felt at that moment. If you haven't seen that movie then you should. It is a true story as is the one I'm telling you now. When I have a hard time coping with life here at the Mission all I have to do is think of Sean and I remember why I'm here. When you find yourself going through your own desert place and it's hard to put your heart into saying, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised," just remind yourself of the Resurrection and you'll find it much easier to say, "Praise the Lord."

## Join the Missionary Community in Prayer

*Everyone is welcome to join the Lay Missionary Servants of Divine Mercy in our daily communal prayer. Come to mass, spend an hour in adoration, or join us in the rosary. Our doors are open!*

**Sunday Mass: 1PM**

**Daily Adoration M-F 8:30AM to 4:30PM**

8:30 AM: **Rosary**

9:10 AM: **Morning Prayer**

3:00 PM: **Hour of Great Mercy:  
Divine Mercy Chaplet**

4:15 PM: **Evening Prayer**

4:30 PM: **Mass**

