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WHEN LIFE IS CRASHING...DO MORE THAN THROW UP YOUR HANDS IN DESPAIR... TURN TO GOD'S DIVINE MERCY

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE SACRAMENTO 2009

(July 14, 2009 – Sacramento, CA) – When your life is crashing...do more than throw up your hands in despair. These are troubled times, but there is always hope through prayer. Come to the 4th annual Divine Mercy Conference at the Sacramento Convention Center on Sept. 12.

Come hear how Divine Mercy impacted the lives of a survivor of Flight 1549 (the "Miracle on Hudson"), a heart-broken performing artist and a young priest who is working to share the message of Divine Mercy – especially with young people.

Fred Beretta had a life-threatening experience on US Air Flight 1549, which crash landed on the Hudson River on Jan. 15. Miraculously, everyone on the ill-fated flight survived. Beretta credits God's Divine Mercy for the survival of all onboard. He was on a one-day business trip to New York and sitting in seat 16A, just behind the left engine.

"We were climbing out and just a minute or so into the flight," Beretta said. "I heard the impact of the bird strikes and then the explosion in the left engine."

As a private pilot, Beretta also realized that the second engine on the jet was not functioning. Things became very tense. He thought there was a good chance that he and the 154 others on the flight would die. He prayed that God be merciful to all onboard, remembering with gratitude that he had prayed a Divine Mercy chaplet prayer the day before his trip.

The Divine Mercy is a Roman Catholic devotion based on the visions of Mary Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who lived from 1905 to 1938. She was canonized as a Catholic saint in 2000. The Divine Mercy chaplet is open to all people, whether they are protestants, Catholics or of no faith in particular. A chaplet is a Roman Catholic prayer form which uses prayer beads. The Divine Mercy chaplet centers on the passion of Christ. According to St. Faustina's diary, Jesus Christ promised that all who recite the Divine Mercy chaplet at the hour of death or in the presence of the dying will receive great mercy.

"The odds were not with us, but God clearly was," Beretta said.

Beretta will speak at the 2009 Divine Mercy Conference in Sacramento and will share his experiences on the flight and how he firmly believes that Divine Mercy played an important part in the unfolding of events.

Annie Karto, a Christian singer and songwriter, said she discovered God's healing through the Divine Mercy devotion, after much heartache and brokenness as a young woman. Karto has since dedicated her talents to promoting this devotion through song. Through sincere phrases, beautiful vocals and a melting delivery on stage, Karto takes her audience on a musical mission with her spiritual music.

Father Derek LaBranch believes that in ministry "you never know how you're going to touch someone's life." He looks forward to showing young people that "God does love them." He also believes that "the greatest challenge in life is being able to lead a balanced life."

Fr. LaBranch will explain how the Apostolic Movement of Divine Mercy is a message for current times, as it pleads for God's mercy for the whole world, particularly for sinners, world problems and helping others.

The 2009 Divine Mercy Conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Check in is from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Registrations are \$15 for advanced registration, \$20 at the door. Admission is \$5 for youth up to age 17. The Sacramento Convention Center is located at 1400 J Street in Sacramento. Parking is available in the Memorial Garage for \$6. For more information, visit www.DivineMercySacramento.org. Registration is also available by contacting Easterns Catholic Books & Gifts at (877) 473-2484 or (916) 338-7272.