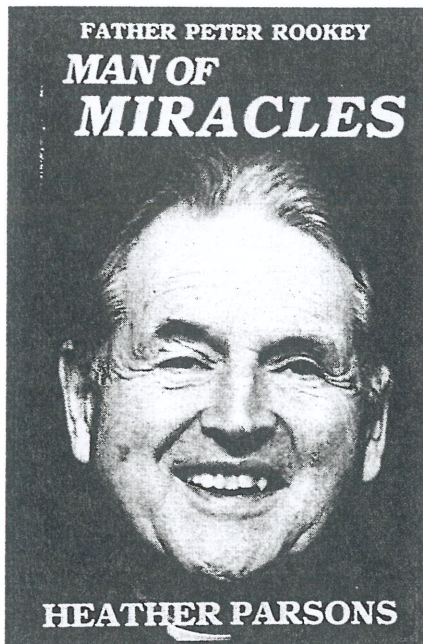


Father Peter Rookey

MAN OF MIRACLES

"You Will Lay Hands On The Sick and They Will Recover ..."

A Book Review By Larry and Mary Sue Eck

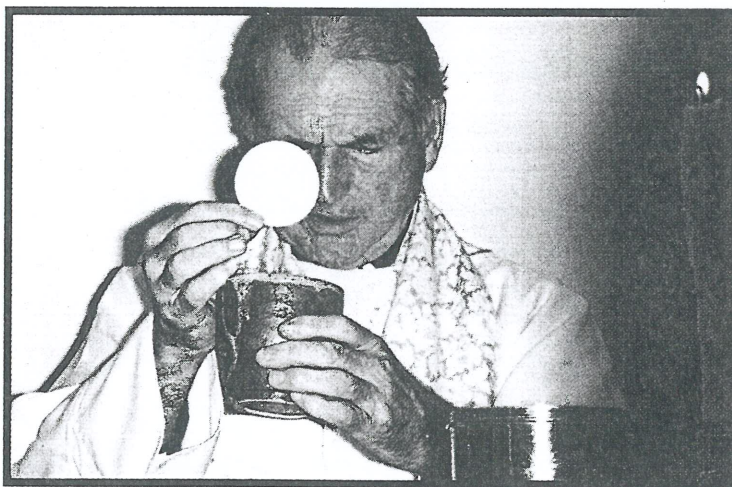


Heather Parsons has done it again. The title of this article is the title of her new book, published in Ireland this year.

We thought it so good we ordered 400 copies to be shipped to the magazine – yes, from across the ocean. We are one of the few, if not the only ones, to have the book for sale in the United States at this time. In the future, an American firm may contract to publish it, but we simply couldn't wait months and months to tell you about it.

Many, the Bible tells us, are not prophets in their own towns. Not true with Father Peter Mary Rookey. He's one of Chicagoland's own and his healing services bring crowds of people. Father Rookey's office sends out a monthly calendar telling where in the country or the world he'll be each day. Recently the Dupage Marian Center scheduled him for a healing Mass. We told his office, "Please don't put it on Father's calendar or we'll have the whole parking lot filled with people who can't fit into the Center."

Heather Parsons met Fr. Peter in 1988, in Ireland, when he came to take part in a television program where she worked. Later she attended one of his healing services. "I had heard about him of course," she said, "the 'famous healing priest' from Chicago who apparently performed miracles." As a journalist, however, she was cautious – until the



Fr. Peter Rookey.

healing Mass. "What I experienced there has never left me." Heather witnessed miracles she thought "restricted to biblical days".

Although Father Rookey had always refused to allow a book to be written about himself, when Heather asked he said yes.

Father is perhaps best known for his "Miracle Prayer". He tells everyone, "Say this prayer faithfully, no matter how you feel. When you come to the point where you sincerely mean each word with all your heart, something good spiritually will happen to you. You will experience Jesus, and He will change your whole life in a very special way. You will see."

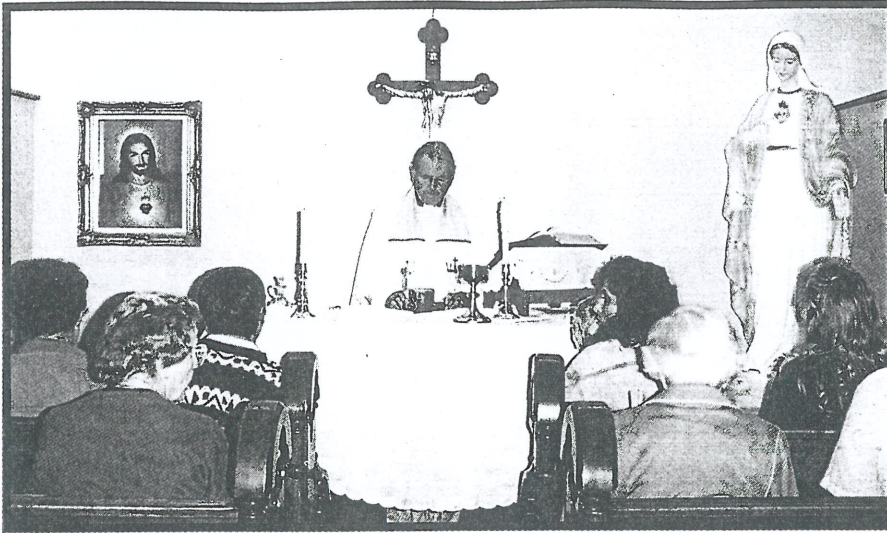
Recently this prayer took on new meaning for us. Shortly after we decided to order these books and do this article, we asked a young woman if she'd like to work in the Marian Center full time. Her brother John had spent the summer working in the Center and was returning to college. Christina Pellizzari called back quickly and said, "My mother and I have been saying Father Peter Rookey's Miracle Prayer that I get the right job – then you called. I'd love to take the job!"

Listen to the wisdom of this man, captured so beautifully by Heather Parson: (Chapter Four, Prayer And Fasting)

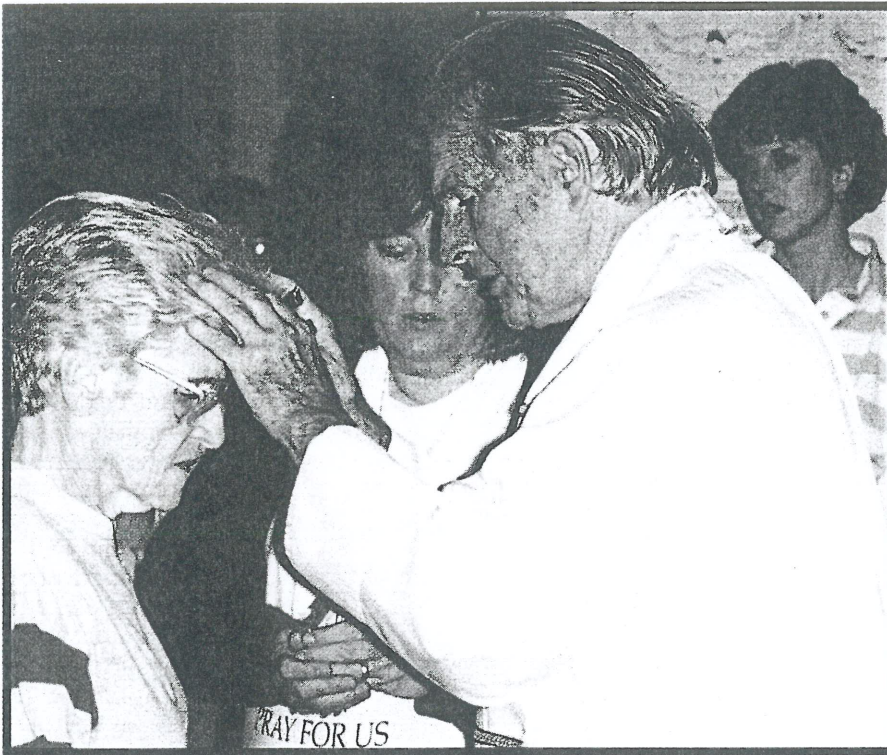
"The trouble with this world today," says Fr. Peter, reaching under his black robe to pull out a worn handkerchief and wipe away the tiny mist of heat from his face, "is that it's success geared.

"We want success, and, if possible, instant success. And that works for our prayers too, it seems.

(more on next page)



Fr. Rookey celebrates Mass at the DuPage Marian Center Chapel.



Fr. Rookey prays over a women during the healing service following Mass.

“But the Lord did not call us to succeed. He called us to try to succeed and to be faithful in trying to succeed. The success, though, is His ...

“We have nothing to lose when we do not see an apparent success, because we are succeeding simply by being faithful to trying to succeed.

“So it is with praying. As we pray, we are being formed into the image and likeness of God. So we have nothing to lose. By our praying, the Lord is giving us a great desire to be healed of

our cancer or whatever we have, and it doesn't matter in a sense whether we are healed physically, because by our praying we are being healed and prepared for heaven.

“Not only that, but we are being given a beauty treatment, because a person who is prayerful cannot hide that. It's painted on their faces, a beauty and serenity, just as the unfortunate alcoholic or drug addict cannot hide their problem. Whatever my problem, it comes out in my countenance, but when

we pray we are enriched and enhanced, we become ever more beautiful until we die and then of course we receive the immortal beauty.”

Heather tells us, “His entire life is a prayer, not just the three hours he devotes each day to talking with his Lord ...

“His schedule is a demanding one, his monthly calendar marked out with only a day here and there not allocated to traveling, to attending healing Masses right across the United States and beyond ...

“Yet few realize that this schedule is maintained on a strict diet of prayer and fasting, that this man of God, now well over the three score years and ten mark, eats just one meal a day and that generally close to midnight, after his healing Mass ...

“It's been some years since he began this routine of strict fasting.”

(She quotes Father Rookey) “Don't forget that in Medjugorje Our Lady asked for prayer and fasting and said that we could achieve miracles with these two powerful spiritual weapons. There she asks for the bread and water fast on at least two days a week, Wednesday and Friday, but I guess that maybe because I'm a bigger sinner, the Lord put it to me to fast every day, although I do eat one meal at night.”

The book chronicles Father Rookey's life, from the miraculous healing of his eyes as a child to the present. Heather then presents several testimonies from the hundreds of healings that have occurred through Father's ministry. In one charming chapter she follows Father through an average day, although “average” is hardly the word to describe it. If you've ever driven the expressways in a large city, you'll feel your heart and stomach contract, along with Heather's, as you sit beside her with Father at the wheel, weaving in and out of the five o'clock Chicago traffic.

We know personally that on more than one occasion several people in Chicago claim to have seen an image of Our Lady near Father Rookey during his Masses. In the book we read, “Following Communion, Rose Johnson, looking up at the altar ... suddenly saw the image appear of a Lady behind the right shoulder of Fr. Peter. She wore a white veil and a blue bodice, Rose recalls clearly. The veil blew gently around her and her hands were by her side ... Fr. Peter turned slightly to his right and bowed, directly it seemed to Rose Johnson, to the Lady who held out her hands

to him exactly as a gentle loving mother does to embrace her child."

Father Rookey told Heather, "Strangely, and what is interesting, is that an artist who lives in London painted a picture of me shortly afterwards. He had no knowledge of this happening with Rose Johnson in Chicago, but when he came to paint the picture he depicted me with my ear cocked to Our Lady, while I bless a little boy with the cross in my hand. When Rose later saw this, she said that it was very similar to the vision she'd had ..."

When Father goes to Medjugorje, he holds a healing service in the large tent behind St. James. No doubt many of our readers have experienced the power of the Lord working through His healing priest at these services. In a recent newsletter from his office, Father tells a wonderful story. This past April 25th, on the Hill of Apparitions at 10:00 p.m., immediately after Our Lady's apparition to Ivan, a 28 year old Frenchman, lying on a stretcher, asked Father



Young boy watches the crowd of people waiting their turn, as Fr. Rookey prays over his mother.

Rookey to pray over him. The man had lumbar vertebrae and spinal cord injuries. Friends had carried him up the hill.

Father said, "We asked all to join us and held the reliquary crucifix with our Servite Saints on his forehead. We asked Mary as a special favor on her anniversary to heal him. 'Do you believe Jesus can heal you?' I asked. 'Oui, oui!' he retorted. I replied, 'Silver and gold I have not but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus, rise and walk!' He stood up unaided, threw up his arms, then touched his toes and gave glory to God and his Blessed Mother. He picked up his stretcher and carried it down the hill. Next day, he gave witness at the healing service behind St. James Church. □

To order Father Peter Rookey, *Man Of Miracles*, send \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling to: Dupage Marian Center, 317 West Ogden Avenue, Westmont, Illinois 60515. For more information, call: 708-968-4684.

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