

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

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Our Lord Speaks:
“My mercy is
greater than your
sins and those of
the entire world.”
(Diary 1485)

*Our Lords Words to
Saint Faustina about
Divine Mercy Sunday:*

*“The soul that will
go to Confession
and receive
Holy Communion
shall obtain
complete forgiveness
of sin and punishment.”
(Diary #699)*

Our Lord Speaks:

“Speak to the world about My mercy... it is a sign for the end times. After it will come the day of justice (Diary 848)...Souls perish in spite of

My bitter passion...I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday). If they will not adore My Mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near.” (Diary #965)

“This is not just one more devotion, just another booklet or picture. It’s incomparable with anyone or anything. The Devotion to The Divine Mercy is determining the destiny of the world, the destiny of humanity. No diplomacy, politics, or any human faculty or skill can save that which seems to be heading for the destruction man has prepared - not just for one individual, but for humanity. Only Jesus, the Crucified One and the Risen One can do this; and, this I maintain - through Mary.” – *Franciszek Cardinal Macharski*

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Discount rates for multiple orders as low as .49 cents.

Great thanks to Tommy Canning for his artwork. You can purchase his fine art at www.art-of-divinemeracy.co.uk/



Who is this Saint Faustina that Our Lord asks to spread His mercy?

Sister Faustina Kowalska is known today as the Apostle of the Divine Mercy.

She was the third of ten children born into a poor pious family in Glogowiec, Poland. When she was only seven, she already sensed in her soul the call to embrace the religious life. Sister Faustina tried hard to ignore this Divine call; however, by a vision of the suffering Christ and by the words of His approach, "How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting me off?" Sister Faustina joined the cloister in the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw.

Her entire life was spent striving for an even fuller union with God and on self sacrificing in cooperation with Jesus in the work of saving souls.

This simple uneducated but courageous woman, was consigned the great mission by Our Lord Jesus to proclaim His message of mercy, to the whole world. His message was recorded in a diary kept by Saint Faustina.

Our Lord Speaks:

"I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My merciful heart." (Diary 1588) **"You are secretary of My mercy; I have chosen you for office in this and the next life."** (Diary 1605)... **"To make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them, and to exhort them to trust in the bottomless depth of My mercy."** (Diary 1567)

Our Lord Speaks:

"I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity." (Diary 965)

Saint Faustina's Vision of Hell

Sister Faustina recorded in the diary a vision of Hell: "I, Sister Faustina Kowalska, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of Hell so that I might tell souls

about it and testify to its existence... The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But, I noticed one thing, that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a Hell.

Today I was led by an angel to the chasms of Hell. It is a place of great tortures; how awesomely large and extensive it is! The kind of tortures I saw:

"The first torture that constitutes Hell is the loss of God. The second is perpetual remorse of conscience. The third is that one's condition will never change. The fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it. A terrible suffering since it is a purely spiritual fire, lit by God's anger. The fifth torture is a continual darkness and a terrible suffocation smell, and despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own. The sixth torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies; indescribable sufferings. There are the torments of the senses. Each soul undergoes terrible and indescribable suffering related to the manner which it has sinned.

No one can say there is no Hell. Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity on those senses which he made use of to sin. (Diary 741)

The Diary of Sister Faustina

The Diary of Sister Faustina is the record of her life experience - the journey of her soul. She was graced by a special communion with God, and the diary expresses her conviction that this communion ought to be the center of our lives. Our deepest hope is that this diary may truly be a vehicle of grace for all who read it. For in reading it, we can see that the mercy of God lives forever. Above all, we hope that all people will be struck by the truth that mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to God's mercy.

Saint Faustina died on October 5, 1938, barely 33 years old, having been a religious leader for 13 years.

Sister Faustina was ordered by Our Lord to keep a diary the last four years of her life.

Private revelations do not offer new doctrine or belief. But, they do provide extraordinary guidance for the church, emphasizing specific and urgent ways of putting faith into action. They present us with God's evaluation of what is most needed at particular times.





HOW TO CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



It is clearly obvious that in order to receive these graces of Divine Mercy Sunday, one must be in the state of grace and partake of Our Lord worthily. Even though there is no such thing as a second baptism and yet our Lord is offering graces that are similar.

CHARITY

Our Lord's words to Saint Faustina about charity:

"I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise

Our Lord Speaks:

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. On that day all the divine flood gates through which grace flow are opened" (Diary#699)

To receive this grace of forgiveness and punishment our Lord ask of us only four things, confession, Holy Communion, charity and trust.

CONFESSION

When preparing ourselves for Divine Mercy Sunday, we promise by going to confession, to focus on God's mercy which is love and more powerful than evil, sin, and death. We give a whole-hearted confession holding nothing back from our merciful Lord.

Due to the great crowds on Mercy Sunday your confession may not get heard; it would be most acceptable to go prior to the celebration. Jesus would never ask for the impossible of our priest to hear all those confessions in one day. Most parishes will be making confession more available during Lent and especially during Holy Week.

Our Lord Speaks:

"Come with faith to the feet of My representative (Diary#1448)...I, Myself, am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest. I, Myself, act in your soul (Diary #1602)... Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light"(Diary 1725)

HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Speaks:

"Oh how painful it is to Me that souls so seldom unite themselves to Me in Holy Communion. I wait for souls and they are indifferent toward Me. I love them tenderly and sincerely and they distrust Me. I want to lavish my graces on them and they do not want to accept them. They treat Me as a dead object where as My heart is full of love and mercy." (Diary 1447)

To receive this extraordinary gift of pardon of all sin and punishment, we must receive Holy Communion on the actual day of the Feast of Divine Mercy. Jesus promised Saint Faustina that those who received Holy Communion in a state of grace (having confessed all sins) would receive **"the complete remission of sins and punishment."** "Christ made the remission of all sins and punishment contingent on the reception of Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. **Jesus has given those who are sick, Military servicemen, first responders and so forth who cannot make Holy Mass the opportunity of receiving these graces by receiving Communion by a priest or extraordinary minister; as long as they have made a good confession and are in the state of grace.**

When we receive, we live in Him and He lives in us. **"Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood, remains in Me and I in him."** (John: 6:56)

The theologian who examined St. Faustina's writings for the Holy See, Rev. Rozycki, explained that, "this is the promise of a complete renewal of baptismal grace, and in a sense it is like a second Baptism.

out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it (Diary#742)... If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgment with their mercy." (Diary #1317)

"Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing" (Saint Therese of Lisieux)

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. Naked and you clothed me. I was sick, and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to Me... In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to Me" (Mathew chapter 25).

How can you say you love God who you can't see and not love your neighbor who you can see?

TRUST IN HIS MERCY

Our Lord Speaks:

"No soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame, I delight particularly in a soul which has placed its trust in My goodness (Diary 1541)...Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion" (Diary#1146)



HOW TO CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Truly to believe and trust our Lord we must believe in our hearts that He is reliable, all good, honest, faithful, committed totally to our good, compassionate, loving, our friend, companion and our brother. Not only is He truthful, He is truth itself. A friend that searches the four corners of the earth for sinners and lavishes His mercy on them.

Our Lord Speaks:

“The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is-trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is My desire to give much.” (Diary #1578)

The divine name, "I Am" or "He Is", expresses God's faithfulness: despite the faithlessness of men's sin and the punishment it deserves, he keeps "steadfast love for thousands". By going so far as to give up his own Son for us, God reveals that he is "rich in mercy". By giving his life to free us from sin, Jesus reveals that he himself bears the divine name: "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will realize that "I AM"." (Catechism 211)

DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

On February 22nd, 1931 Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina with rays radiating from His heart and said,

“Paint an Image according to the pattern you see with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You... I promise that the soul that will venerate this Image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I, Myself will defend it as my own glory (47, 48)...I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for grace to the Fountain of Mercy (Confession). That vessel is this Image with the Signature ‘Jesus, I Trust in You.’” (Diary#327)

Our Lord Speaks:

“I demand the worship of My mercy through the Solemn Celebration of the Feast (Divine Mercy Sunday) and through the veneration of the Image which is painted.” (Diary 742)



Christ speaks about the image itself as being extremely important. The image itself will be the cause for many miracles.

Our Lord Speaks:

“I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature": Jesus, I trust in You." (Diary 327)

Our Lord Speaks:

“By means of this Image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works”(Diary#742)

The image especially represents the three great sacraments of our church. The red rays represent the blood which was poured out for us. And this blood has become the very flesh of our Lord given to us in the

Sacrament of the Eucharist. The pale represents the Sacrament of Baptism, which washes us clean from all sin and makes us sons and daughters of the most High God. The hand raised in blessings and the white robe (Alb) represents priesthood. With all priest united to the High Priest Jesus we are healed of sin through the Sacrament of Confession. It shows us that Christ is always blessing us and offering us forgiveness through His priest.

The image should be given great honor on Divine Mercy Sunday as a reminder of His love, His Sacraments; to be a reminder of our duty of love towards our neighbor and to put all our trust in Him.

TO HELP PREPARE

The Lord told me to say this chaplet for nine days before the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday). It is to begin on Good Friday. **“By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls.”** (Diary#796)

Jesus is commanding me to make novena before the Feast of Mercy, and today I am to begin it for the conversion of the whole world and for the recognition of The Divine Mercy... **“so that every soul will praise My goodness. I desire trust from my creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy”** (Diary#1059)

By beginning, these two novenas on Good Friday we would be offering our prayers for the conversion of these souls and we would be showing charity to our fellow brothers and sisters through prayer.

Our Lord Speaks:

“Write this for the many souls who are often worried to carry out an act of mercy, yet spiritual mercy which requires neither permission or storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul. If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment.” (Diary#1317)

Not all of us can perform acts of charity such as, visiting those in prison, the sick and so forth; but all of us can pray!

Turn to page 10, 11 to pray these novenas.



SOUL YOU ARE NOT YET LOST



Damnation is for the soul who wants to be damned; but for the one who desires salvation, there is the inexhaustible ocean of the Lord's mercy to draw from. (Diary of Saint Faustina 631)

Conversation of the Merciful God with a Sinful Soul

Our Lord Speaks:

"Be not afraid of your Savior, O sinful soul. I make the first move to come to you, for I know that by yourself you are unable to lift yourself to Me. Child, do not run away from your Father; be willing to talk openly with your God of mercy who wants to speak words of pardon and lavish His graces on you. How dear your soul is to Me! I have inscribed your name upon My hands; you are engraved as a deep wound in My heart." (Diary 1485)

Soul: Lord, I hear your voice calling me to turn back from the path of sin, but I have neither the strength nor the courage to do so.

Our Lord Speaks:

"I am your strength, I will help you in the struggle."

Soul: Lord, I recognize your holiness, and I fear you.

Our Lord Speaks:

"My child, do you fear the God of mercy? My holiness (80) does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth - the tabernacle - and from this throne I de-

sire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue of guards. You can come to Me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace."

Soul: Lord, I doubt that you will pardon My numerous sins; my misery fills me with fright.

Our Lord Speaks:

"My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of My goodness? For you I descended from heaven to earth; for you I allowed Myself to be nailed to the cross; for you I let My sacred heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come, then, with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart. Your misery has disap-

peared in the depths of My mercy. Do not argue with Me about your wretchedness. You will give Me pleasure if you hand over to Me all your troubles and griefs. I shall heap upon you the treasures of My grace." (Diary 1485)

Conversation of the Merciful God with a Despairing Soul

Our Lord Speaks:

"O soul steeped in darkness, do not despair. All is not yet lost. Come and confide in your God, who is love and mercy." (Diary 1486)

But the soul, deaf even to this appeal, wraps itself in darkness. Jesus calls out again: **"My child, listen to the voice of your merciful Father."**

In the soul arises this reply:

"For me there is no mercy," and it falls into greater darkness, a despair which is a foretaste of hell and makes it unable to draw near to God.

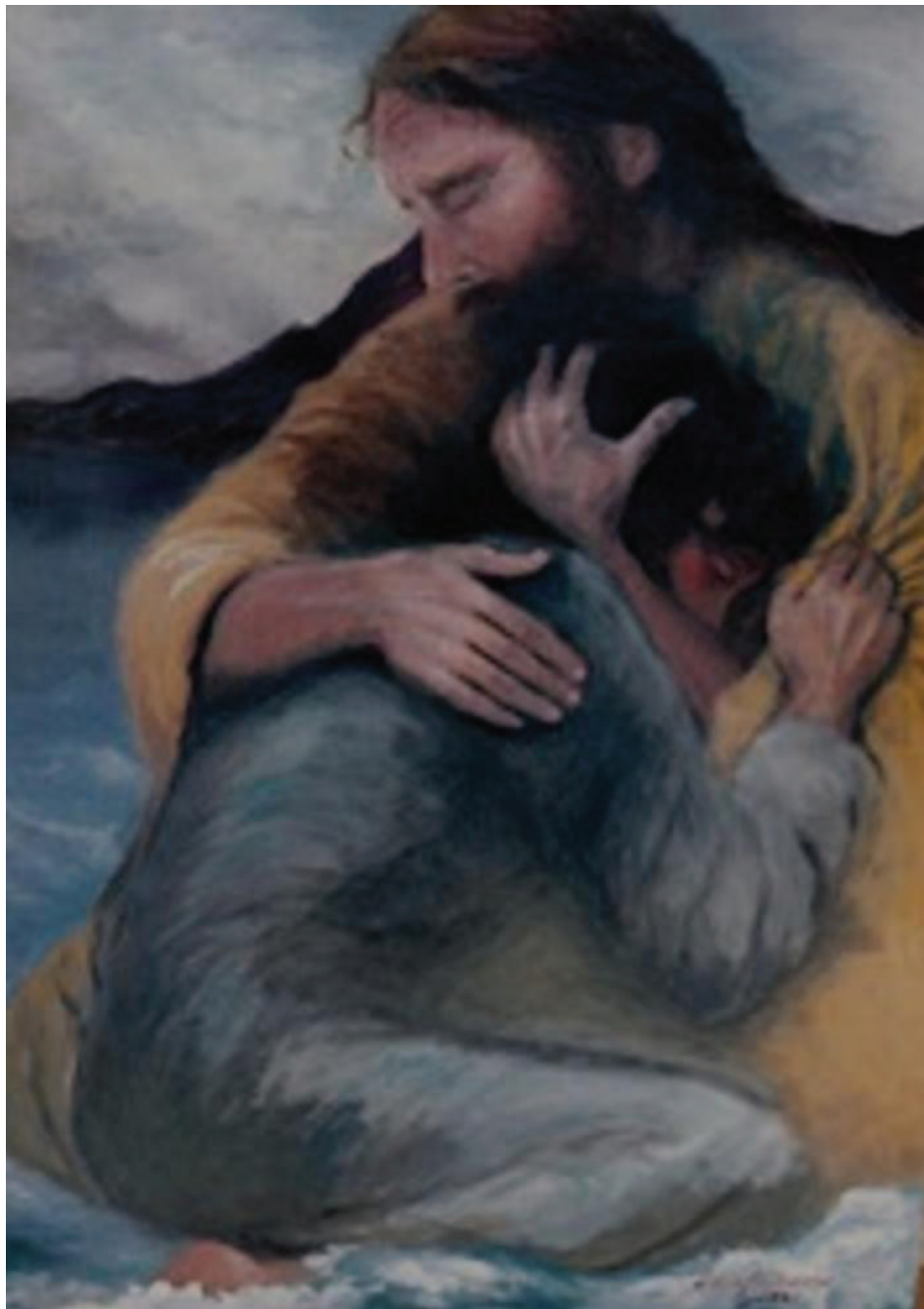
Jesus calls to the soul a third time, but the soul remains deaf and blind, hardened and despairing. Then the mercy of God begins to exert itself, and, without any cooperation from the soul, God grants it final grace. If this too is spurned, God will leave the soul in this self-chosen disposition for eternity.

Our Lord Speaks:

"What joy fills My heart when you return to Me. Because you are weak, I take you in My arms and carry you to the home of My Father."



SOUL YOU ARE NOT YET LOST



Soul: (as if awakening, asks fearfully): Is it possible that there yet is mercy for me?

Our Lord Speaks:

“There is, My child. You have a special claim on My mercy. Let it act in your poor soul; let the rays of grace enter your soul; then bring with them light, warmth, and life.”

Soul: But fear fills me at the thought of my sins, and this terrible fear moves me to doubt your goodness.

Our Lord Speaks:

“My child, all your sins have not wounded My heart as painfully as your present lack of trust does -that after so many efforts of My love and mercy, you should still doubt My goodness.” (Diary 1486)

Soul: O Lord, save me yourself, for I perish. Be my Savior, O Lord. I am unable to say anything more; my pitiful heart is torn asunder; but You, O Lord...

Jesus does not let the soul finish but, raising it from the ground, from the depths of its misery, He leads it into the recesses of His heart where all its sins disappear instantly, consumed by the flames of love.

Our Lord Speaks:

“Here, soul, are the treasures of My heart. Take everything you need from it.” (Diary 1486)

Our Lord Speaks:

“Tell Me all, My child, hide nothing from Me because My loving heart, the heart of your best friend, is listening to you... Do not be absorbed in your misery—you are still too weak to speak of it— but, rather, gaze on My heart filled with goodness, and be imbued with My sentiments. Strive for meekness and humility; be merciful to others, as I am to you; and, when you feel your strength failing, if you come to the fountain of mercy to fortify your soul, you will not grow weary on your journey.” (Diary 1486)

A Compassionate, Loving Church is Waiting for You

From March 25, 1995 “The Gospel of Life” eleventh encyclical of Pope John Paul II

I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is

ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone’s right to life.

For all of you who have been affected by abortion, please fight to stop this crime against God and man. Spread God’s love and mercy to a hurting people.

There are many post-abortion healing ministries out there but we recommend:

Rachel’s Vineyard (877) 467-3463 and
Bethesda Healing Ministries (614) 309-2651



The Graces Promised by Jesus for the Feast of the Divine Mercy are greater than a Plenary Indulgence



Mercy and devoid of some deed of mercy toward neighbor, it would be a contradiction of devotion to the Divine Mercy. Instead of the exceptional grace, it would bring down upon the recipient the Divine Wrath.” (Stackpole, 2004, p. 113-114)

Our Lord Speaks:

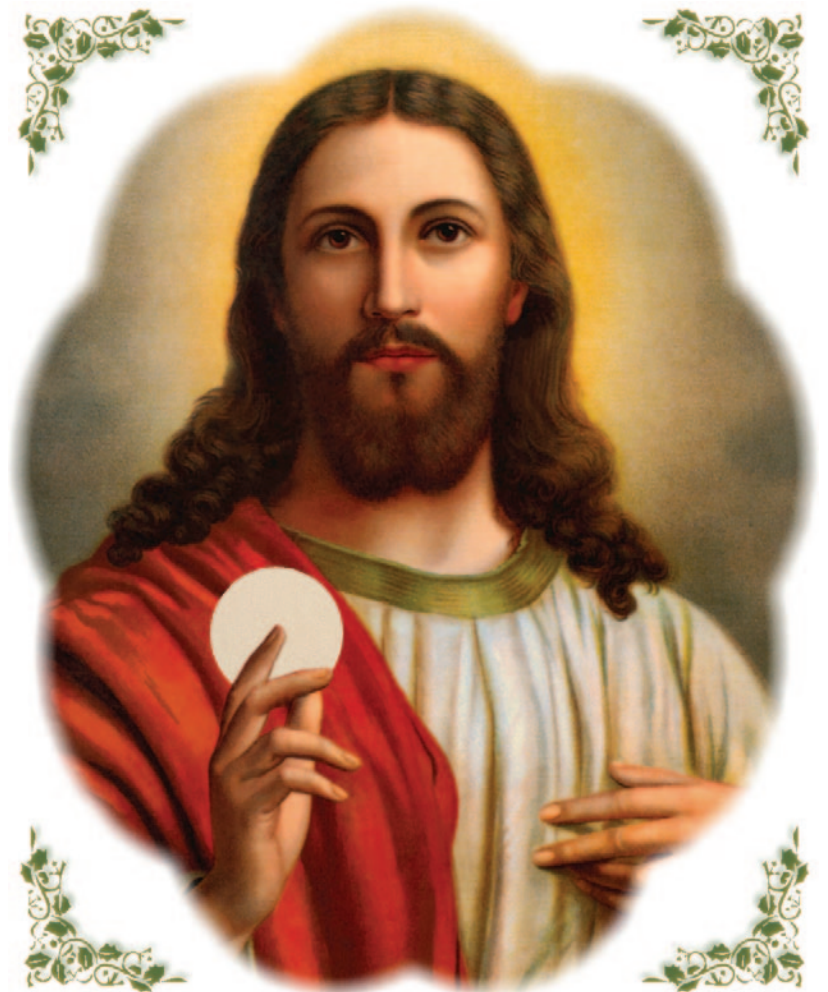
“Ask of my faithful servant (Father Sopoeko) that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life (Holy Communion) on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment... The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment... on

that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened.” (Diary 299, 300, 699)

Jesus promised St. Faustina that those who received Holy Communion in a state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday (Feast of Mercy) would receive “**the complete remission of sins and punishment**” (Diary 699). The theologian who examined St. Faustina’s writings for the Holy See, Rev. Rozycki, explained that, “this is the promise of a complete renewal of baptismal grace, and in a sense it is like a second Baptism.” Fr Rozycki wrote: “Christ made the remission of all sins and punishment contingent on the reception of Holy Communion on the Feast of Divine Mercy. It is most obvious that in order to affect a complete forgiveness of sin and punishment the Holy Communion received on the Feast of Mercy must be received worthily, and must also fulfill the basic requirements of the Divine Mercy devotion. However, received unworthily, without trust in Divine

What Father Rozycki goes on to say about the grace promised by Jesus is mind boggling. “The most exceptional grace promised by Jesus for the **Feast of the Divine Mercy is greater than a plenary Indulgence**, which only consists of a remission before God of temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven, and never the remission of sins itself.” (Stackpole, 2004, 113-114. Refer to Catechism 1471 on Plenary Indulgences.)

Theologically, there is no possibility of a second baptism. Baptism can only be received once and through baptism all is washed clean- “complete remission of sins and punishment.” Through baptism we become adopted sons and daughters of the Most High- (Priest, Prophet, and King). What is meant in the quote above is that its power is like a second baptism. If God is able to bestow this grace through the sacrament of Baptism, why would He not be able to bestow it- if He so wishes-through the Eucharist, which is the greatest sacrament. It is clearly obvious that in order to receive these graces of Divine Mercy Sunday, one must be in the state of grace and partake of Our Lord worthily.





The Graces Promised by Jesus for the Feast of the Divine Mercy are greater than a Plenary Indulgence



“All the Divine flood gates of grace are open”

Jesus did not limit His generosity to this one exceptional grace of complete remission of sin and punishment; He promised to drown us with graces unimaginable.

Our Lord Speaks:

“On that day, the very depths of My Mercy

are open: I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who will approach the fount of My Mercy... On that day all the Divine Floodgates through which graces flow are opened.” (Diary 699)

All these graces and benefits are accessible on this day to everyone, as long as we ask for them with great trust and love for our God and our neighbor.

Robert Stackpole, STD, editor, *Pillars of Fire in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press) 2004 pp. 113-114. Quotations from the diary of Saint Faustina are from *Divine Mercy in My Soul* copyright 1987, Congregation of Marians. Writings taken from a *Divine Mercy Resource*, copyright 2010 Richard Torretto.



PREPARE THE WORLD FOR MY FINAL COMING

Our Lord makes it very clear to Saint Faustina the urgent need proclaim His message of mercy, because the world needs it as a preparation for His coming again.

Our Lord Speaks:

“Speak to the world about my mercy... it is a sign for the end times. After it will come the day of justice (848)... you will prepare the world for my final coming (429)... tell souls about this great mercy of mine, because the awful day, the day of my justice, is near.” (965)

Our Lord Speaks:

“Before the day of justice, I am sending the day of Mercy (1588)... I am prolonging the time of mercy for the sake of sinner. But woe to them if they do not recognize this time of My visitation (1160)... while there is still time, let them have recourse to the fountain of My Mercy (848)... he who refuses to pass through the door of My Mercy must pass through the door of My justice.” (1146)

TRUST

The message of divine Mercy is at the heart of the gospel. Turn to the Lord's mercy with trust, receive His mercy with thanksgiving, and share His mercy with others.

Trust in Mercy is to love God and your neighbor; this is the very essence of the message. Trust is the living faith that we place in our merciful Savior, Jesus. Mercy is the Lord's life giving love poured out upon us sinners; life giving love that we share with one another. This message is a life transforming power to change us.

Our Lord told saint Faustina to proclaim His mercy to the whole world and encouraged sinners to trust in His mercy by prayer and the sacrifice of their sufferings. She described her mission in the church, “to proclaim and plead for mercy for the whole world.”

This devotion is to transform us so we can be a living witness of mercy. We



must put complete trust in Him and become a living image of his mercy.

Greatest Miracles

Our Lord Speaks:

“When you go to Confession, to this fountain of mercy, the blood and water which came forth from My heart always flows down upon your soul (Diary 1602)... In the tribunal of mercy [Confession]... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated (Diary 1448, 1602)... Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy (Diary 1602)... Come with faith to the feet of My representative (Diary 1448)... I, Myself, am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest... I, Myself, act in your soul (Diary 1602)... Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light” (Diary 1725).

Our Lord Speaks:

“Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost. It is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full... From this fountain of mercy, souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity” (Diary 1448).

By showing the importance of confession Our Lord made it necessary for obtaining His promise of complete forgiveness of sins and punishment for observing the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday).

When we sin, we start pulling away from grace. First with venial sins, we slowly move away from our Baptismal promise, and then mortal sins put a total separation, a wall between us and our Redeemer. We start to tell the Lord, “It's my will now, not yours.” But, through the Sacrament of Confession, we renew our Baptismal vows. We once again proclaim Christ, Lord of our Life and not Satan. We open up the door we closed on Him and tell Him we would like a personal relationship with Him.



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The Laity for Mercy wish to manifest unconditional submission to the final and official judgement of the magisterium of the church regarding any events under investigation.

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Our Mission

*Promoting the value of every human life.
Introducing the healing mercy of God for everyone –
but especially for those who have been affected by abortion.*

How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The chaplet is said using a rosary.

Begin by making the sign of the cross while holding the crucifix. Then pray (1 Our Father), (1 Hail Mary) and (1 Apostle's Creed).

On the large beads recite the following:

**V. Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of
Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,**

R. In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the small beads recite the following:

V. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion.

R. Have mercy on us and on the whole world

In conclusion say this prayer three times:

V. Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One

R. Have mercy on us and on the whole world

End this prayer by making the sign of the cross

The sign of the cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen



Nine Day Novena to the Divine Mercy

On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Saint Faustina make a special novena. He Himself dictated the intentions for each day. By means of this specific prayer she was to bring to His heart a different group of souls each day and thus immerse them in the ocean of His mercy. Since Saint Faustina was commanded to write it down our Lord must have intended the novena to be used by others, not only in preparation for the Feast of Mercy but at other times as well.

Day One

“Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My Mercy, In this way, you console Me, in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges me.”

Day Two

“Today bring Me the souls of priests and religious and immerse them in My unfathomable Mercy. It was they who gave Me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My Mercy flows out upon mankind.”

Day Three

“Today bring to Me all devout and faithful souls and immerse them in the ocean of My Mercy. These souls brought Me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were that drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness.”

Day Four

“Today bring to Me the pagans and those who do not yet know Me. I was thinking of them also during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart. Immerse them in the ocean of My Mercy.”

Day Five

“Today bring to Me the souls of the separated brethren and immerse them in the ocean of My Mercy. During My bitter Passion they tore at My Body and Heart, that is, My Church. As they turn to unity with the Church My Wounds heal, and in this way alleviate My Passion.”



Day Six

“Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls of little children, and immerse them in My Mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly angels, who will keep vigils at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of Grace. Only the humble soul is able to receive My Grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence.”

Day Seven

“Today bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over My passion and entered most deeply into My spirit. They are living images of My compassionate heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the

next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death.”

Day Eight

“Today bring to Me those souls who are in the prison of Purgatory and immerse them in the abyss of My Mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to my justice.”

Day Nine

“Today bring to Me souls who have become lukewarm and immerse them in the abyss of My Mercy. These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives, because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will. For them, the last hope of salvation is to flee to My Mercy.” (Diary 1210-1228)



The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

In 1935, Saint Faustina received a vision of an angel sent by God to chastise a certain city. She began to pray for mercy, but her prayers were powerless. Suddenly she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Jesus' grace within her. At the same time she found herself pleading with God for mercy with words she heard interiorly:

Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (Diary 476)

As she continued saying this inspired prayer, the angel became helpless and could not carry out the deserved punishment (Diary 474, 475). The next morning when Faustina entered the chapel, she heard these words interiorly:

Our Lord Speaks:

"Every time you enter the chapel, immediately recite the prayer which I taught you yesterday" (Diary 476). **Then she heard these words:**

Our Lord Speaks:

"This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days on the beads of the rosary in the following manner: First of all, you will say one Our Father and Hail Mary and the I Believe in God. Then on the Our Father beads, you will say the following words: "Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world." On the Hail Mary beads you will say the following words: "For the sake of His sorrowful passion have mercy on us and on the whole world." In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: "Holy God,



Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world" (Diary 476).

God will refuse nothing when you entreat Him with the voice of His Son. Your sacrifice is nothing in itself, but when you join it to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it becomes all-powerful and has the power to appease divine wrath. God loves us in His Son. The painful passion of the Son of God constantly turns aside the wrath of God.

"O' My Creator and Lord, I feel that I am going to remove the veil of heaven so that earth will not doubt your goodness" (words from Faustina Diary 483).

Our Lord Speaks:

"Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you (1541)... Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death (Diary 687)... When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just judge, but as the merciful Savior (Diary 1541)... Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner

most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy (Diary 687)... Through the chaplet, you will obtain everything. If what you ask for is compatible with My will." (Diary 1731)

At what time should I pray the chaplet?

The chaplet may be said at any time. This is such a powerful prayer and should be prayed often. I invite you especially on the Feast of Mercy at the 3:00 o'clock hour to pray the Chaplet.

The three o'clock hour is an important time to pray the chaplet

Three o'clock is the hour of great mercy. This is the hour Our Lord died on the cross. The Lord invites us to pray the chaplet at (3:00) every afternoon, remembering Christ's death on the cross.

Will this prayer take people away from the Rosary?

No. On the contrary, since Our Lord asks for it on regular rosary beads, this should lead you afterwards into the rosary.

I'm still not sure I understand the chaplet

In the chaplet, we are not begging God to grant something He might be holding back from us. We are offering a sacrifice of praise. We are acknowledging, affirming and acclaiming Him as the merciful one who has in Christ, once-for-all, granted us all that we need to fulfill His purpose for us. We are offering God the Father, His beloved Son, that through His sacrifice on Calvary has opened heaven for us and has made amends for our sins so we can become one with God again. Through the chaplet we are uniting with our Savior in prayer on behalf of poor sinners.

Preparation for Confession

What is the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)?

Penance is a Sacrament in which the sins committed after Baptism are forgiven. It is a Sacrament of healing from our wounds of sins. It also should help you receive the knowledge on how to avoid all sin. This Sacrament was instituted by Christ to His Apostles to be passed on to each generation (John 20:21) (Matthew 16:18) through the ministerial priesthood.

Prayer before Confession

O Holy Spirit, source of all light, come to my assistance and enable me to make a good confession. Enlighten me, and help me to know my sins as one day I shall be forced to recognize them before Christ's judgment seat. Bring to my mind the evil which I have done and the good which I have neglected. Grant me, moreover, heartfelt sorrow for my sins, and the grace of a sincere confession, so that I may be forgiven and brought into your everlasting friendship. Mary, my Mother, pray for me to make a good confession. (Hail Mary, 3 times)

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The Ten Commandments

1) I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange Gods before me.

The first commandment forbids the worship of false gods, belief in fortune tellers or astrology. We sin against the first commandment by putting anyone or anything in God's place, such as sports, TV, humans, food, material goods, Internet, radio, sex, alcohol, drugs. By failing to show respect for persons, places and things related especially to God, by atheism, heresy and schism, and by missing Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This, too, involves neglecting to learn the truths about God, leaving God's Catholic Church, (when we have believed it is completely faithful in teaching God's truths to show all men God's salvation). We show great honor to God's name by invoking Him with reverence in our prayers and worship.

2) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

The second commandment forbids all false, rash, unjust and unnecessary oaths, blasphemy, cursing and profane words (e.g. cussing, damning God's holy name).

3) Remember, thou keep holy the Sabbath.

The third commandment obliges us to hear Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, forbids all unnecessary servile work on Sunday. By resting from our usual work, we find it easier to join with family members and other Christians in making Sunday a day of celebration.

4) Honor thy Father and Mother.

The fourth commandment forbids all disobedience, contempt and stubbornness towards our parents or lawful superiors, (e.g. talking back to parents and teachers, being disobedient to all authority unless sin is involved). We show our love for our neighbor when we obey all lawful authority whether it be at home, in civil society, or in the church. Even authority of civil government comes from God. St. Paul wrote: "Let every soul be subject to higher powers, for there is no power but from God. And those that are, are ordained by God. (Romans 13: 1-2).

5) Thou shalt not kill.

The fifth commandment forbids all willful murder, fighting, anger, hatred, revenge, bad example, abortion and unlawful birth control. Christ came to give us life, not take it. All followers of Christ should oppose whatever tends to destroy or abuse human life: murder, suicide, abortion, mercy killing, drug abuse, drunkenness, fighting, and anger. "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer." (1 John 3:15)

6) Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7) Thou shalt not steal.

It is sinful to be selfishly apathetic towards others in need, to violate the rights of others, to steal, to deliberately damage others good name or property, to cheat, to not pay one's debt, or to unjustly discriminate another.

8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

The eighth commandment forbids all rash judgment, back-biting, slander, gossip and lies. Exaggerating about another's faults, telling tales about them or damaging a person's reputation is all a sin against the eighth commandment.

"To speak evil of no man, not to be litigious, but gentle: showing all mildness towards all men.) (Titus 3: 1-2)

9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

The sixth and the ninth commandments forbid unchaste thoughts or desires on another's husband or wife; all impurity and immodesty in words, looks, thoughts, entertainment, actions, the clothes you wear. The use of the sexual faculty is a right and privilege of those validly married. Therefore, adultery, fornication (sex before marriage), masturbation, pornography, indecent entertainment, acts of impurity and a fully deliberate desire to commit these acts is all seriously wrong and a sin against the sixth and ninth commandment. "But I say to you, that whoever shall look on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5: 27-28)

10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors goods.

The tenth commandment forbids all desires to take or keep wrongfully what belongs to another. All of the goods of this world come from the good God. He has put more than enough of them at the disposal of men. The material goods that God gives us are not for our-

selves alone. He gave them to be shared with the less fortunate, especially those in desperate need. Other sins against the tenth commandment are - fraud, damaging property of another, not paying debt, not making an effort to find the owner of a material you found, depriving a laborer of just wage, wasting time and money, depriving the family the money needed by wasting it on gambling, drinking and all kinds of foolish needs.

The Seven Capital Sins

Pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth.

What is necessary to make a good Confession?

- A) Examination of Conscience
- B) Confess all sins, even venial sins
- C) Sorrow of sin (not wanting to commit the same sin ever again)
- D) Firm resolution never more to offend God
- E) Confess our sins to a priest. (Tell all of the mortal sins you have committed and how many times that you can remember).
- F) Say the penance which the priest gives us.

Method of Confessing

Enter the Confessional, start with the sign of the Cross, with a moderate low voice -- Say: Bless me Father for I have sinned. I confess to Almighty God, and to you Father. It is (how long) since my last Confession.

Tell all your sins. Listen to the priest, answer all questions. Pay attention to the penance given. While the priest recites Absolution, say your Act of Contrition. "And go and sin no more."

Act of Contrition

O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because I have offended you who art so good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul.



The Eighth Day (Octave), The Greatest Day, Divine Mercy Sunday!

The name “octave” has been given to the eight day period after a liturgical feast. This eighth day of the feast is considered as a recurrence of the first day. Each Sunday throughout the year is known as the “eight day” - a recurrence of the Feast of the Resurrection. The Octave day can be considered as the “greatest day” of the Feast itself. This practice of observing the octave day as the greatest day of the feast is rooted in Jewish celebration. For example the dedication of Solomon’s Temple and the annual Feast of Tabernacles. We read in the 7 chapter in Saint John’s Gospel:

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, “if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me; let him drink who believes in Me.” (Jn 7:37-38)

What is the Octave day of Easter?

Divine Mercy Sunday (Feast of Mercy), the Second Sunday of Easter “the greatest day”. We need to take the time to consider the meaning of these things and the connection that exist among them. We must enter into this Easter Sunday celebration knowing that the greatest day of this Feast is the celebration of God’s Mercy.

One of the greatest Doctors of the Church, St Gregory of Nazianzen, also supports this feast, declaring that **the Octave Day of Easter is even a greater feast than Easter** - though it takes nothing away from the greatness of the Day of Resurrection itself. Easter Sunday is the boundary between death and life (a creation). But its eighth day, the Octave, is the **Fulfillment of what Easter is all about**- perfect life in



eternity (a second creation, more admirable and more sublime than the first).

What good is it to put these days on our calendars and call them “great feasts” if their meaning is not realized in our lives? We must understand them and rejoice and celebrate what our Lord has given us through His church.

When Jesus revealed the Sacred Image of Himself as The Divine Mercy to St. Faustina on February 22, 1931, He declared:

Our Lord Speaks:

“I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter (the eighth day, octave of the Resurrection of our Lord) that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.” (Diary, 49)

One day while St. Faustina was offering all her sufferings and prayers for the establishment of this Feast, she said to our Lord: “They tell me that there is already such a feast and so why should I talk about it?”

Our Lord Speaks:

“And who knows anything about this feast? No one! Even those who should be proclaiming My mercy and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves. That is why I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the First Sunday after Easter, and want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.” (Diary, 341)



The Eighth Day (Octave), The Greatest Day, Divine Mercy Sunday!



portance of the wounds and the importance of the Sacraments. We should also see the symbolizing of the Holy Spirit through this image, whom Christ breathed into the Disciples during the Same Octave- Day appearance. On the strength of that Holy Breath, all sins are forgiven and at one moment. (John 20, 21-24) What a great promise our Lord gave us on this day, **“complete remission of all sins and punishment”**. Let us be most grateful to Saint Thomas and Saint Faustina for drawing us into the depths of Divine Mercy, and lets truly celebrate for eight day’s our Lords resurrection and redemption and prepare ourselves for the, **“Feast of Mercy”**.

Quotations form the diary of Saint Faustina is from Divine Mercy in My Soul copyright 1987, Congregation of Marians. Writing’s taken from Fr. Seraphim, *Mercy The Message of Easter*. Copyright 1994 Marian of the Immaculate Conception.

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“There will come a time when this work will be as though utterly undone. And then God will act with great power, which will give evidence of its authenticity. It will be a new splendor for the Church, although it has been dormant from long ago” (Saint Faustina, Diary, 378). Today certainly attests to the truth of Saint Faustina prophecy. Through the efforts of Saint John Paul II the new splendor of the Church has begun.

This is not a new Feast day; it is the celebration of one that has been forgotten!

Our Lord through Saint Faustina, is simply reemphasizing what was strongly urged by Saint Thomas the Apostle in the earliest liturgical document in existence, the “Apostolic Constitution.” There we read:

“After eight days (following the Feast of Easter) **Let there be another feast observed with honor, the eighth day itself**, on which He gave me. Thomas, who was hard of belief, full assurance, by showing

me the print of the nails and the wound made in His side by the spear.”

What assurance did Saint Thomas receive by the sight of the Lord’s wounded side?

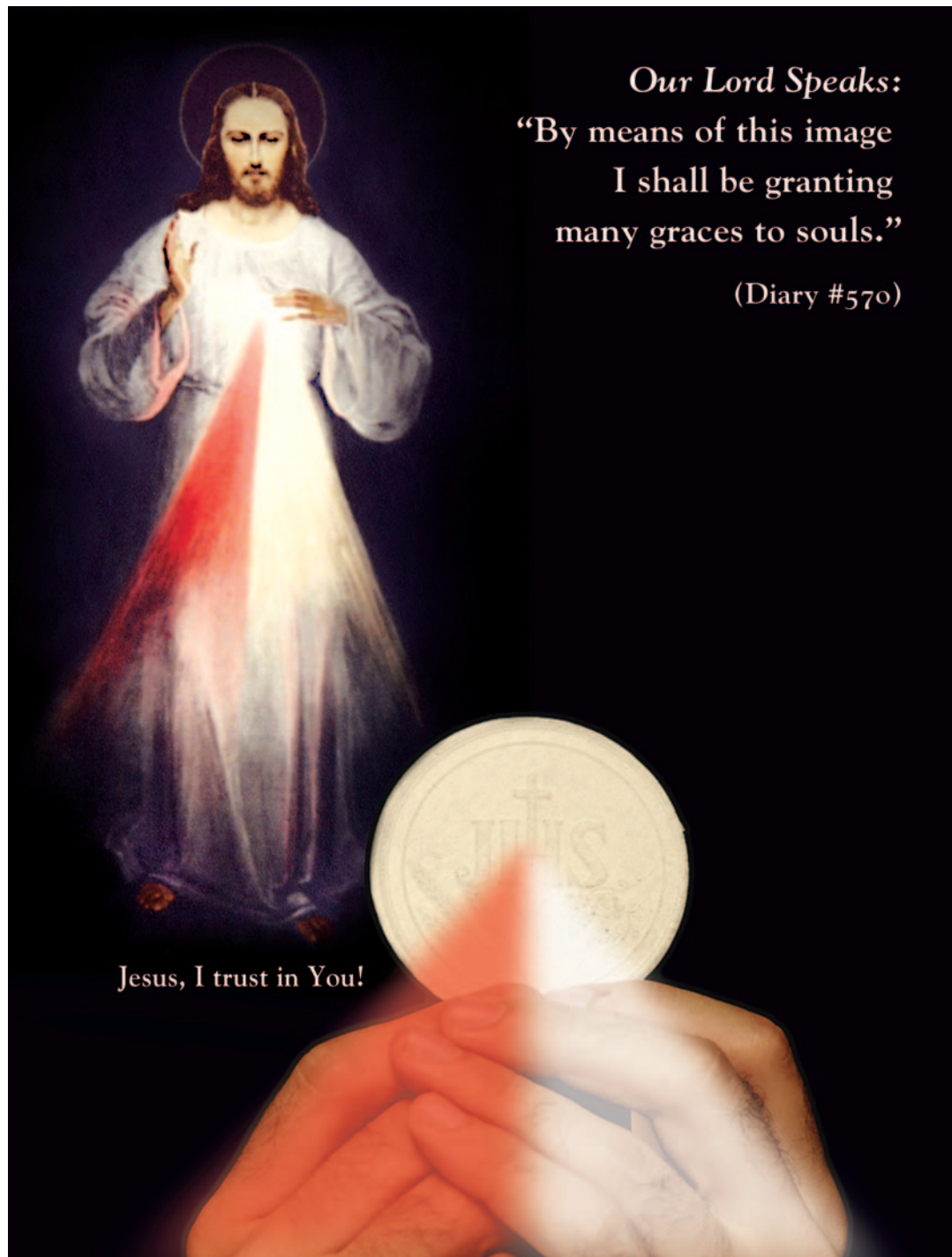
Not that Christ has truly risen (for that was obvious), but that He is divine and therefore has the power of reversing sin. By the site of the wounded side Thomas understood and saw the **“stream of mercy.”** This is what we see in His image, His life and blood to the Church, through the Sacraments. The red rays, represent the Eucharist from which all the living waters flow, the pale rays, the waters of Baptism and Reconciliation.

The key to the Image

Now you can better understand why our Lord wants this image venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday (the eighth day). As Thomas saw and understood the great significance of the wounds, we should ourselves see and understand the great im-



“I am the King of Mercy”



OUR LORD SPEAKS

Our Lord Speaks

“I desire that this image be displayed in public on the first Sunday after Easter, that Sunday is the Feast of Mercy.” (Diary #88)

“My gaze from this image is like My gaze from the cross...I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: “Jesus, I trust in You.” (Diary #326)

Our Lord Speaks

“I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast (Divine Mercy Sunday) and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.” (Diary #742)

Our Lord Speaks

“No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy. ..Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me. The flames of mercy are burning Me-clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls...”

Our Lord Speaks

By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it.” (Diary 570, 50)