

# THE DIVINE MERCY MESSENGER

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## *Jubilee Year of Mercy*



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

## *Our Lord Speaks:*

*“Tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near” (Diary #965).*

### ***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... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.” (Diary 699)

### ***Our Lord Speaks:***

“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.” (Diary 50)

### ***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)

“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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*Great thanks to Tommy Canning for his artwork. You can purchase his fine art at [www.art-of-divinemercy.co.uk/](http://www.art-of-divinemercy.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 Sister 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, recourse to My 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

tortures 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)

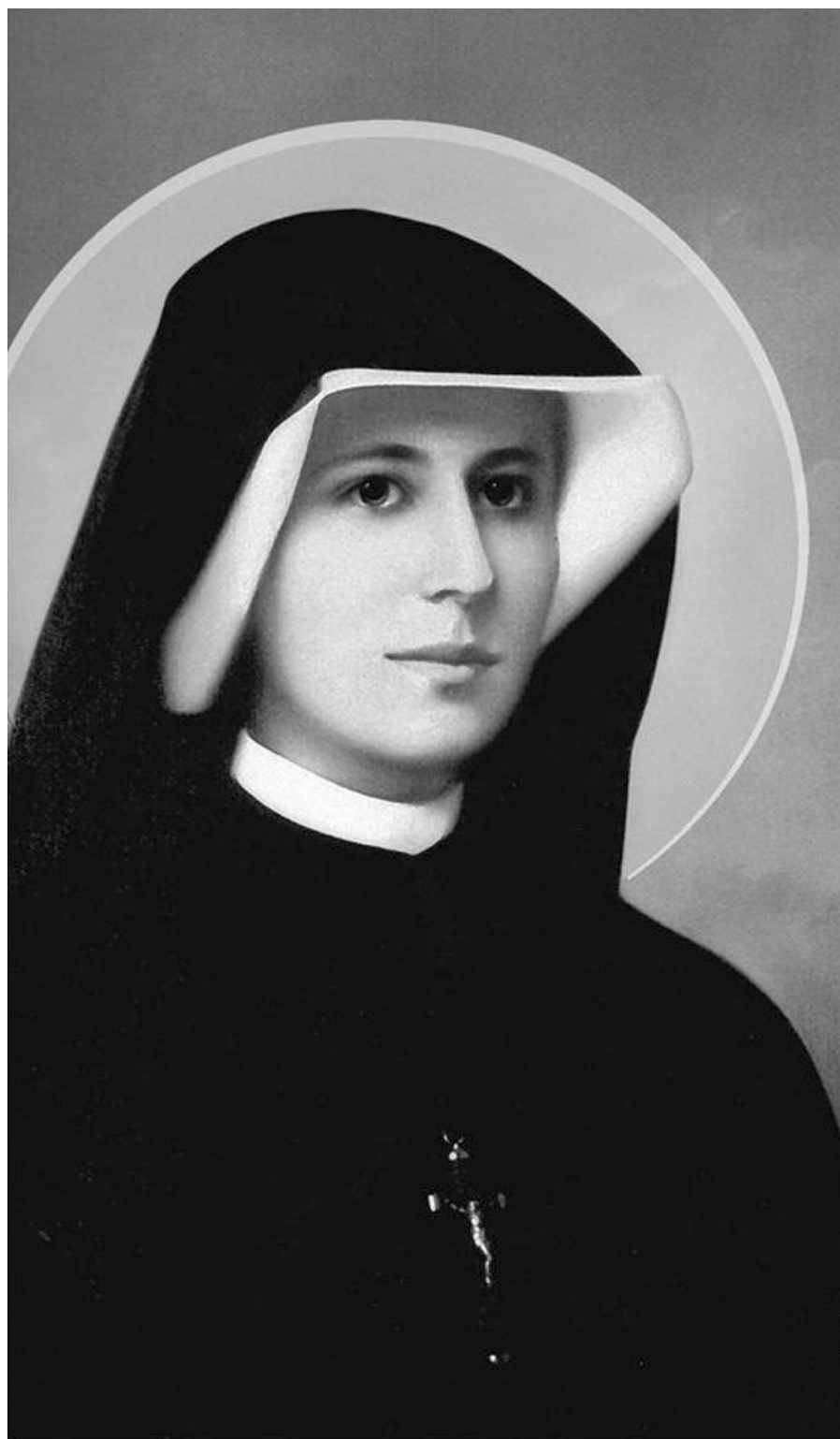
## The Diary of Sister Faustina

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.**







## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY • SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016 • DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“Make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them and to exhort them to trust in the bottomless depths of My mercy.”**  
(Diary 1567)

### **The Feast of Divine Mercy**

The institution of the feast was requested by Jesus in 1931, while communicating His will during the painting of the Image of The Divine Mercy:

### *The 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; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.”** (Diary 49)

Why did Jesus appear at this time in history? Because there is no greater time than now that we need His divine mercy.

### **What is a Feast?**

The church commemorates (honors) Jesus or our Lady or a Saint on special days known as Feasts. The Feast of Divine Mercy is a celebration of God's mercy.

### **Why do we need Divine Mercy Sunday?**

“Your sins and my sins” is the short answer! Mercy Sunday brings us Our Lord's promise of an “ocean of graces” for souls, “especially for poor sinners,” and each of us as sinners most abundantly need the graces of the risen Christ to wash away those sins. Even those of us who are striving for holiness need deeper conversion and renewal. Sin is the problem, Divine Mercy is the answer. We would be foolish to ignore God's gracious offer.

**April 30, 2000, John Paul II announces the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.**



## Saint Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II said in his canonization of Sister Faustina, “It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

The Pope said that this gift of mercy will be particularly needed in the third millennium. Mercy Sunday, as the main revelation that Jesus gave to St. Faustina, is the crowning of that gift of mercy for the whole world in our time.

### **What do you mean by the outpouring of graces on this day?**

Our Lord told Faustina His desire to flood us

with His graces on that particular day.

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“This feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy and it is confirmed in the vast depths of My tender mercies.”** (Diary 420)... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter... I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy.” (Holy Communion) (Diary 699)

### **What is grace?**

Grace is God sharing His life with us, so when there is an outpouring of grace, God is sharing an abundance of His life.

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“Whoever approaches the Fount of Life (Holy Communion) on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punish-**

**ment.”** (Diary 300)

### **So through the feast of mercy, all is washed clean?**

Yes, it's like being baptized again. No purgatory, no punishment. Even though this sounds too good to be true, it's God's mercy in action.

### **What is purgatory?**

Purgatory purifies us from venial sins and from all temporal punishment due to sin. Those in purgatory are different from the damned because they are essentially in union with God but it is an imperfect union. Purgatory purifies to make that union perfect.



## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY • SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016 • DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Our Lords words regarding His Feast day (Divine Mercy Sunday):**

*"Whoever receives the source of life on this day will attain complete remission of sins and punishment." (Diary 300)*

**Our Lord Speaks:**

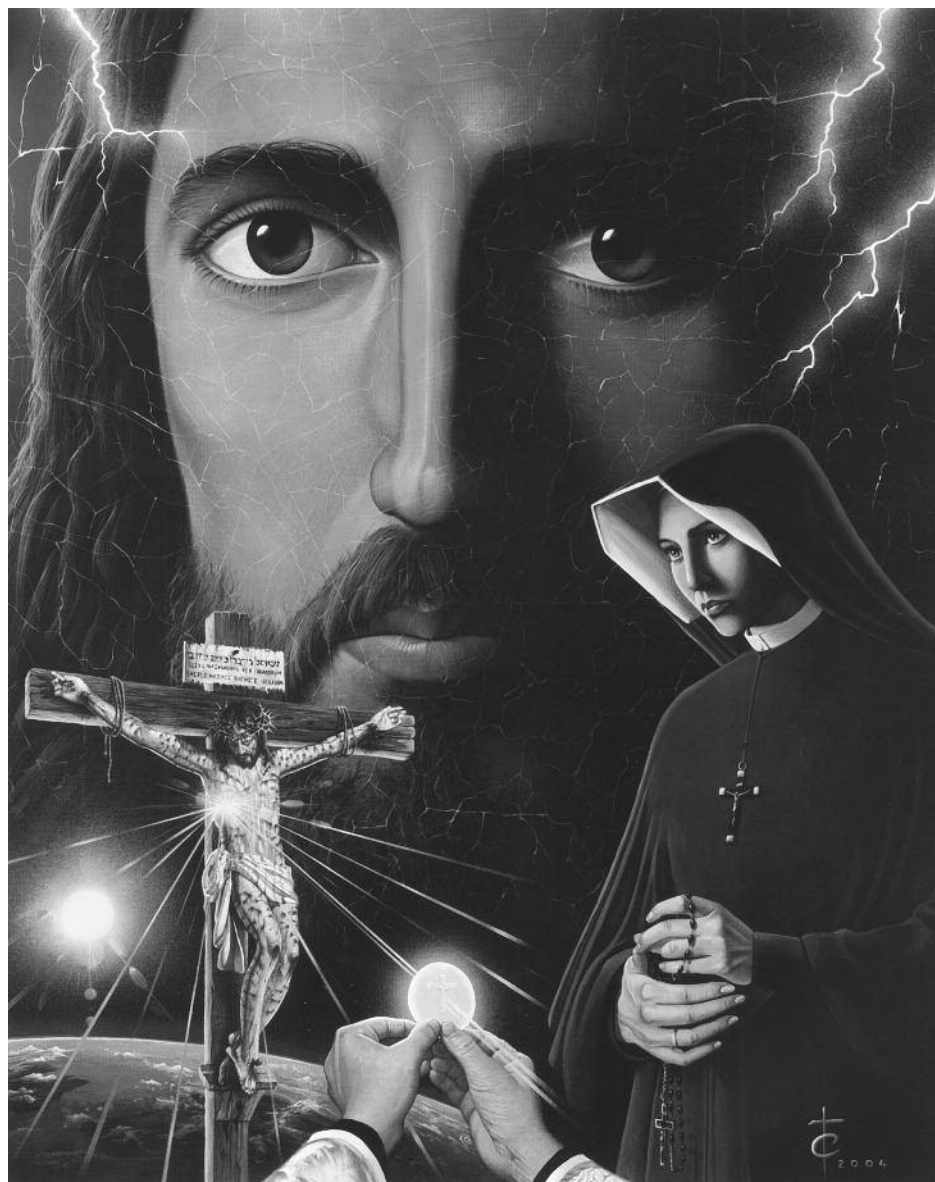
**"The Soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment... Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet... The feast emerged from the very depths of my mercy and it is confirmed in the very depths of my tender mercies... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Diary 699)**

The Church in its great wisdom to show full support of these revelations given to Saint Faustina offered on this day a plenary indulgence. What is a plenary indulgence? Full and complete remission of punishment still due for a sin after the guilt has been forgiven.

This can be applied to ourselves or to a soul in purgatory. (Refer to Catechism 1471 on Plenary Indulgences)

**The most exceptional Grace promised by Jesus for Divine Mercy Sunday is something considerably greater than a plenary indulgence.**

The indulgence offered by Holy Mother the Church consist only of remission of temporal punishment for committed sins, but is never the remission of sin itself. In other words, Jesus raises the reception of a worthy Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday to the rank of a second baptism. Even though you can only be baptized once, what our Lord is promising us is that the graces from Divine Mercy Sunday are similar to Baptism. It is total and complete remission of sins and punishment. The theologian who examined the writings of Saint



Faustina 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."** (Stackpole, 2004, 113-114).

But a few things are required from us in order to receive the special blessing. A sincere and heart felt confession( with such a shortage of priests it would be acceptable to go during Lent as long as you are in the state of grace when receiving our Lord on Mercy Sunday), total trust in His love, mercy and deeds of mercy towards one's neighbor. It is obvious that in order to affect a complete forgiveness of sins and punishment, the Holy Communion received on Divine Mercy Sunday must be received worthily. This requires of us to be in the state of grace.

Jesus also expresses two wishes. First, the image of divine mercy is to be blessed on Divine Mercy Sun-

day (Diary 49) and it is to be publicly venerated. **"By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it."** Second, on that day, priests should speak to souls of this great and unfathomable mercy of His (Diary 570)."

**Jesus did not limit his generosity on Mercy Sunday; He opened up the flood gates of grace to all who desire Him.**

**Our Lord Speaks:**

**"On that day are open all the divine floodgates to which graces flow are open... I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who will approach the fount of My Mercy...for this reason, let no soul fear to approach Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity." (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. What is grace? God's very life given to us! Then what does

our Lord mean by **"all the divine floodgates of grace"**? A total outpouring of His very life is available of this one day every year.

**Trust**

It is necessary for us to understand the fundamental essence of devotion to divine mercy is trust. Without trust there is no devotion such as Jesus wished. Without trust, it is impossible to attain any of the promises attached to the devotion. Jesus spoke of it 34 times in the diary of Saint Faustina. **"The graces of My mercy may be drawn by one vessel alone, which is trust, the more a soul trust, the more it will receive. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me (Diary 1578)... Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary 300)** To truly understand Jesus and the Divine Mercy devotion, we must turn to Him with an act of trust. (continued on page 5)





# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## The hour of great Mercy

Jesus himself referred to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of his death, as the "hour of great mercy toward the world."

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"I remind you, My daughter, that as often as you hear the clock strike the third hour (3:00 p.m.), immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul, In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world- mercy triumphed over justice." (Diary 1572)

He said: "at three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, steep yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world... In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of my passion." (Diary 1320)

Jesus directed Saint Faustina and all of us on how to celebrate the hour of mercy. He suggested that during this hour; beseech Divine Mercy for the entire world, especially for poor sinners. He encouraged Saint Faustina and all of us to meditate during this time on his passion, particularly his abandonment by all during his final agony. (Diary 1572)

He especially advises the Stations of the Cross. If time did not permit it, He asked her to make a brief visit to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in The Most Blessed Sacrament. Being that we are all not called to the religious life, we can at least take a brief moment in our busy lives during this hour to thank Him for giving His life for us and say a



quick prayer if the chaplet is not at all possible.

## Mercy and Love of Neighbor

Great promises are attached to the devotion to Divine Mercy and yet Jesus has requirements. One is an act of love of neighbor with the practice of mercy toward our neighbor.

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"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)

Lord Jesus expressed clearly that He wishes each and every person to perform each day at least one

act of mercy towards one's neighbor, through a good deed, A good word, or through prayer.

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"But write this for the many souls who are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permission nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul." (Diary 1317)

Spiritual deeds of mercy can be carried out by anyone, even the very poorest. First by performing an act of mercy, second by a merciful word, third by forgiving and comforting; fourth, if you can offer no word, then pray- as that too is mercy.

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness. You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is the prayer for the conversion of sinners. No, my daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered ." (Diary 1397)

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"Pray for souls that they be not afraid to approach the tribunal of My mercy (confession). Do not grow weary of praying for sinners. Do you know what a burden their souls are to My heart? Relieve My deathly sorrow; dispense My mercy." (Diary 975)

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"Be always merciful as I am merciful. Love everyone out of love for Me, even your greatest enemies, so that My mercy may be fully reflected in your heart." (Diary 1695)



# The EUCHARIST: Life and Summit of Divine Mercy

**On the Road to Emmaus:** *They meet Christ on the Road to Emmaus. They talk with Him and their hearts are burning but they do not recognize Christ. He makes as if He's going to go on and they ask if He would stop and break bread with them. Christ breaks the bread and blesses the bread and they recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:13-35)* This is our problem today. We do not recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist), if we did, our miseries would be turned into joy. When we suffer, sadness enters our hearts. If we truly believed in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, our suffering would turn into joy.

## The Veil

"My mission would not come upon an end at my death but will begin. Oh doubting souls, I will draw aside for you the veils of heaven to convince you of God's goodness." (Diary 281)

**Help us penetrate the veil Faustina, so we can better understand the Eucharist**

The Eucharist is alive. If a stranger was to come and watch us receive the Eucharist, would the stranger know that? Our Lord told Faustina, **"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)

## Christ in the Eucharist

The church teaches that the Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ, and that means the entire God Head, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Together and always the church says we are to reverence unity in the trinity and trinity in the unity. What do we think when the Mass begins? Jesus checks His watch and says, "See you Dad, see you Holy Spirit, see you Mom. I have to get to Mass for the sacrifice now. I have to get in the Eucharist." Isn't this silly? The church teaches Christ is present



both in the Eucharist and in Heaven at the same time. Saint Faustina writes, "Once after Holy Communion, I heard these words: 'You are our dwelling place.' At that moment, I felt the presence of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. I was the temple of God, child of the Father. I cannot explain all this but my spirit understands all this. I knew more distinctly than ever that the divine persons; the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are one. My soul is in communion with These Three." (Diary 451) So when we enter into communion, we enter into the full Trinity.

## There is only one Mass

There is only one liturgy. Christ is the only high priest and all other priests share in the priesthood of Christ. The laity, in a different way, share in the one priesthood of Christ, but Christ is always the

high priest. Christ is eternally in heaven interceding at the right hand of the Father, worshiped by all the angels and saints. Only in eternity will we understand how awesome the Mass really is.

## Doing more than just receiving Communion

We need to do something more than just receive Communion. We must become Communion. We must enter into Communion with God. 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)

## How do we enter into Communion?

There are two kinds of eating: The first is *sacramental eating*. When we are receiving this sacrament we receive with belief that this is truly the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

The second is *spiritual eating*. Spiritual eating is where we do something. We actively unite ourselves with Christ. The two should happen at the same time.

## There is no limit to how many times a day we can spiritually receive Communion

There is *sacramental communion* and there is *spiritual communion*, and if you can't receive Our Lord sacramentally every day, then you can receive Him spiritually. In spiritual communion you unite with Him with a desire to receive Him sacramentally. If you have such a desire and a longing to receive communion and you can't because of some circumstance, Christ honors this desire and the grace can be as great. Let's say person A goes to Mass, receives communion, leaves instantly after communion to go watch Sunday football. Where is this man's heart? Let's take person B. Let's say person B has cancer and cannot go to Mass, but desires very much to receive Our Lord spiritually in communion. Who do you think receives more graces? Person A will receive graces but not as much as person B.





# The EUCHARIST: Life and Summit of Divine Mercy

## If we invite Him into our hearts, He takes over and becomes the Host

This is what happened on the Road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13) They met Christ. They invited Him into their home and what did Christ do? He became the Host at their house. He broke the bread and gave it to them to eat and they recognized Him. This is what happens to you when you invite Him into your heart. He comes in and becomes the Host and feeds you the graces you need each and every day. The Host (Eucharist), we receive becomes the Host in our hearts. He prepares the meal and feeds us.

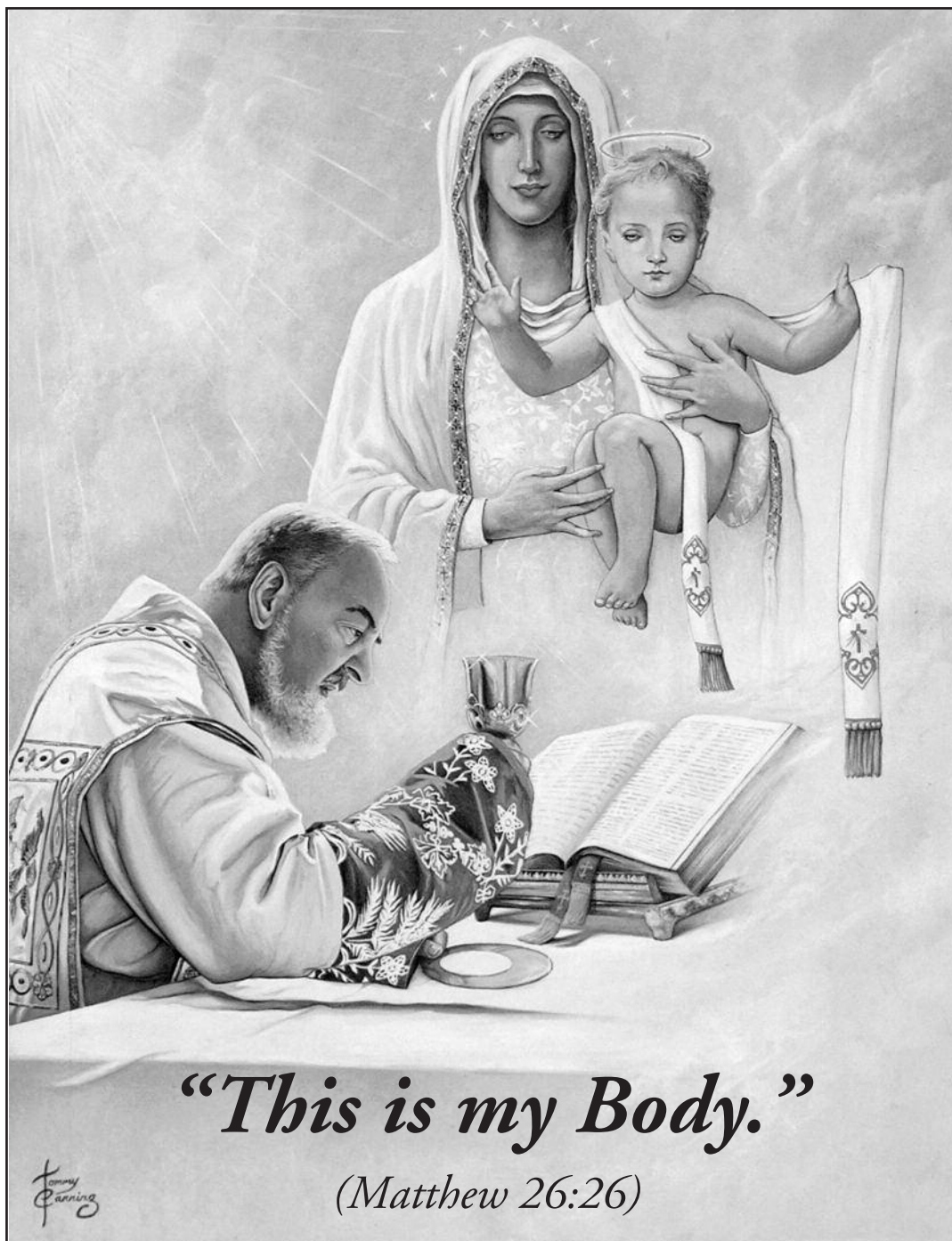
## We too are received into His heart

**“He who eats my flesh abides in me and I in Him.”**

(John 6:55, 56) Now we enter into His heart, His home, His heavenly kingdom. Since Christ is not alone, we are received into the Father-Son-Holy Spirit and the whole heavenly kingdom. All the saints and angels are present when you receive Christ in the Eucharist body, blood, soul and divinity. If you die in a state of grace, you are united with Christ in heaven. This is the heavenly liturgy given to us. When you die, you are going to be with Christ. This is a promise of Our Lord.

When St. Teresa received her first Communion she cried, she realized that her mother was present during her Communion. When we enter into Communion, we are joining with all the saints.

## Eternal life has to become now, whenever we receive Communion



***“This is my Body.”***  
(Matthew 26:26)

The whole function of Communion is to transform us. Eternal life must begin now, not when we die, but now, everyday with Holy Communion. We must begin now to live as God lives. We are sharing His life now. We don't have to wait until we die. We can do it now. The saints knew this and they lived it.

## We are supposed to become what we eat

The function of the Eucharist is that we are supposed to become another Christ. We are supposed to be transformed. With every Holy Communion, we become more and more like

Christ. St. Paul says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me.” (Galatians 2:20) The Eucharist is supposed to be fuel for a new way of life, a new type of living separate of this world. Communion isn't the end. We now become missionaries for Christ. We go out and become Christ to all. Our attitude towards the Eucharist will determine our evangelization to others in the world. It is not enough to discover Christ in the Eucharist. You must bring Him to others. The world is one big mission land.

## It hurts Our Lord if we do not believe in His true presence in the Eucharist

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“My great delight is to unite Myself with souls... when I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But, souls do not pay any attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy**

**themselves with other things. Oh, how sad I am that souls do not recognize love! They treat Me as a dead object.”** (Diary 1385)

Sin, anxiety, and not being reconciled with our neighbor, are the three things that block a fervent reception of the Eucharist. Our woundedness can be healed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The gospel on Divine Mercy Sunday is (John 20: 19-31) where Christ institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the Apostles and which Our Lord calls the “Fountain of My Mercy” (1602). “It is in the confessionals that the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated.” (Diary 1448)



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful

### The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

“Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -- greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’ But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18: 10-14)

“For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer” (Isaiah 54: 7-8)... “My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken says the Lord, who has mercy on you.” (Isaiah 54: 10)

### Mercy and Sin.

The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God’s mercy to sinners. The angel announced to Joseph: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” The same is true of the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Redemption: “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

“God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us.” (St. Augustine) To receive His mercy, we must admit our faults. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn 1:8-9)

New Catechism #1846-184

During Mass just before the Minor Elevation, we pray: Though we are sinners, we trust in your mercy and love. Do not consider what we truly deserve, but grant us your forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord.

### Extraordinary Graces

#### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy.” (Diary 687) “I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of grace that it cannot be contained within itself, but radiates to other souls.” (Diary 1074)**

### What is a Sacramental?

“Sacramentals are signs bearing certain likeness to the sacraments, by which spiritual affects are signified and obtained by the intercession of the church.” (Cannon 1166) Examples are holy water, scapulars, medals, and rosaries. Others are actions like blessings and exorcisms. These differ from the seven sacraments Christ instituted. Whereas the church institutes sacramentals, it can also abolish them. The graces received by Sacramentals depends on the heart of the individual and the intercession of the church or prayers.

Christ is always present in the sacraments no mat-

ter what our belief is or where our heart is, but in the sacramentals we experience Christ only on our disposition and the church’s prayers, so remember, sacramentals are secondary. The sacraments are first.

### What is a Sacrament?

Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ that give the grace they signify. Sacraments produce grace (God’s life).

### What is a Devotion?

Readiness and willingness to dedicate one’s self to the service of God, an abandonment to God in prayer and openness to His call.

Simple childlike prayer is very pleasing to God—to talk to God simply as would a child. We all have experienced in our lives a time when prayer becomes hard and there seems like there is not enough time to pray with such a busy day and the demands of our family and work. Our Lord understands these busy times in our lives and to help us in our prayer life our Lord throughout the ages has sent His Mother, the Saints, Prophets and many of His heavenly friends to bring us special devotions to help us in our prayer life. Devotions become the gas for a soul running out of gas, fuel to make it to our destination (heaven). Devotions will refuel your soul to get back in the driver seat and continue on your journey to heaven. Our Lord gave us His church and its riches to help us. Why not use the sacramentals and devotionals that are available to help you draw closer to God, holy scripture and the Sacraments?

**Sinners first need to repent and commune with God, then the works of mercy and devotionals will come into play.**

When putting the horse in front of the buggy, we first need the conversion of heart to confess one’s sins to come back to God. All are sinners. All are wounded. Let’s stop judging them and let’s pray and lead them home.







# MARY, THE MOTHER OF MERCY

## A great warrior has been sent to save us, Mary, the Mother of Mercy!

All mankind, especially during this last century, is continuously growing farther and farther from God, from Christ, and from His church. Consequently, in spite of the great progress of civilization, the world senses itself evermore unhappy and scared.

During the last two centuries in order to rescue sad and grieving sinful man, heaven sent it a great warrior. Through Mother Mary, the Mother of Mercy, by means of three great apparitions; La Salette, Lourdes, Fatima -exhorted humanity to penance and to a life based on faith and love. She made it very clear that otherwise, great tragedies shall befall humanity for its unbelief and its immorality. Now one must add the revelation given to Saint Faustina, given for our time. It is Jesus Himself who appears in these revelations to save mankind with His mercy. He wants to convert sinful humanity away from the path of destruction.

### Saint Faustina's vision of the Mother of God:

In the evening, I saw the Mother of God, with her breast bared and pierced with a sword. She was shedding bitter tears and shielding us against God's terrible punishment. *God wants to inflict terrible punishment on us, but He cannot because the Mother of God is shielding us. Horrible fear seized my soul. I kept praying incessantly for Poland, for my dear Poland, which is so lacking in gratitude for the Mother of God. If it were not for the Mother of God, all of our efforts would be of little use...* (Diary #686) September 1, 1937. *I saw the Lord Jesus, like a King in Great Majesty, looking down upon our earth with great severity; but because of His Mother's intercession He prolonged the time of His mercy* (Diary #1261)

### Bring Me My Weapon

The rosary is a weapon. The very gates of hell tremble when the rosary is prayed fervently. As Catholics, we know that the prayers of the rosary are more than just vain repetitious words. Saint Padre Pio said: "The rosary is the 'weapon' for these times." If we truly focus on the meditations of the mysteries, we examine deep into the heart of the Gospel of truth. Some might still be thinking "Why the rosary?" The simple answer is, be-



cause it fosters a love for the Blessed Mother and asks for her powerful intercession.

The secular culture is also powerful and is built on lies and the twisting of good and evil. If we are ever going to shake the very foundation of falsehood that secularism is built on, we must arm ourselves with the truth. Praying the rosary is such a powerful way in which we will begin to take down the secret walls of hidden lies in our homes.

The rosary is the Gospel on a chain. The prayers of the rosary help us gain insight into the one who is the Divine Truth and Truth Giver, Jesus. Not only do we arm ourselves with the truth, but we also implore the one who is the Mother of Truth to act with us. In the rosary we ask the model of purity herself, Mary, to pray for our purity which is under major attack. We have a Goliath to take down and just as David had five stones and a sling shot, we have five decades in ours. The rosary is the chain to bind Satan and his demons and cast them back into hell where they belong. Our Lady of the Rosary is the title under which Mary introduced herself in Fatima. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of her coming to Fatima in 2017. In Fatima, she asked that the Rosary

be prayed in order to end World War I. And now more than ever this weapon is needed!

There is a miraculous remedy, which allows you to obtain serenity, peace of heart, and an end of family conflicts. This miraculous remedy is lying in your drawer or hanging from your rearview mirror. It costs a few dollars. And that is your Rosary! So, why do not grab it and pray it fervently.

**To those who pray the Rosary, the Blessed Mother has made wonderful promises to Blessed Alain de la Roche, OP.**

"He who will persevere in praying my Rosary will receive all the graces that he asks of me. I promise my very special protection and the greatest benefits to all those who shall recite my Rosary with devotion. The Rosary will be a powerful shield against hell; it will destroy vices, deliver from sin, and defeat heresy. The Rosary will cause the virtues (good habits) to flourish and obtain divine mercy for souls; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world, and raising them to desire Eternal goods. So many souls will thus be sanctified! He who confides himself to me by the Rosary shall not perish. Whosoever shall recite my Rosary with piety, pondering its mysteries will never die a bad death. The sinner will convert. The righteous man will persevere in grace, and in all cases, will be admitted to eternal life.

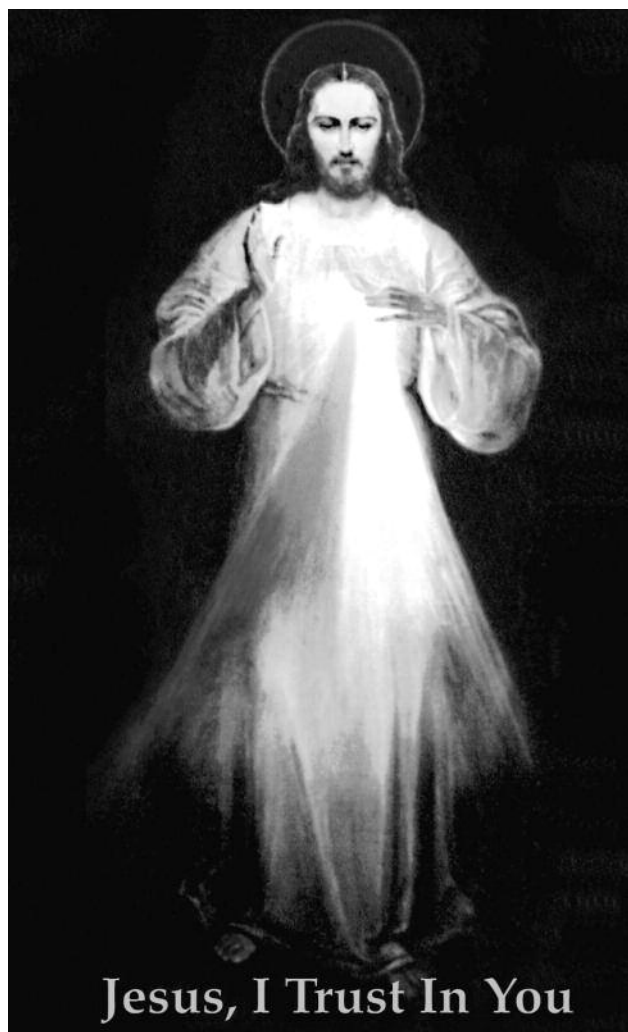
"Whoever has a true devotion for my Rosary will not die without the Church's help. I want all those who recite my Rosary to find the light and the fullness of grace in life and in death, and take part in the merits of the blessed. I shall promptly deliver from purgatory the fervent souls of the Rosary. The true sons of my Rosary will enjoy a special glory in heaven. I will attend to all the needs of those who propagate my Rosary. I obtained from my Son that all the confreres of the Holy Rosary shall have as brothers the saints of heaven, in life as in death."

*The 15 promises fall under the category of "private revelation," and as such are a pious tradition, which a person is free to believe or not believe. The promises bear the imprimatur ("let it be printed") of Patrick J. Hayes DD who was Archbishop of New York from 1919 to 1938 on a holy card.*



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## The Image of Divine Mercy



Was this the Image the Apostles and Thomas saw? They saw Our Lord in His glory with His wounds walking towards them in the upper room and what did he say? "Peace be with you," and he instituted the Sacrament of Penance. This is the same room where on Holy Thursday He instituted the Eucharist.

**The Divine Mercy Image should be given great honor in our homes and in our churches.**

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the First Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it" (Diary 341). Our risen Savior has pale and red rays streaming from His side. These rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from His side while He was on the cross, but in His appearance to St. Faustina, they had been transformed into glorious rays. The red ray is the Sacrament of the Eu-

charist, the blood and life of the soul. It is the food that makes us one with Our Lord. His blood and our blood unite. The pale ray is the Sacrament of Baptism and Reconciliation, which brings us into union with Christ. When we are wounded by sin, the great physician heals us through his priests.

### **The Image**

In 1931, Our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence. Her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature: Jesus, I Trust in You... I promise that the soul that venerates 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 (Diary 47, 48)... I am offering people a vessel to the fountain of mercy (Confession). That vessel is this Image with the signature, Jesus, I Trust in You," (Diary 327)... "I desire that this Image be venerated first in your chapel and then throughout the world." (Diary 47).

**Saint Faustina asked Our Lord, "What is the meaning of the two rays?"**

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

"The two rays denote blood and water. The pale ray stands for the water which makes the soul righteous. The red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by the lance on the cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (Diary 299)... 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).

### **When we sin, we don't change His love for us**

When we sin, we disfigure His image in us. When we sin, we think He's going to smack us down. We smack ourselves down. Our hearts harden and we block His blessings from coming in. All God wants to do is bless us. This picture of Divine Mercy is *blessing*. Look at this Image. Is He angry or mad? No, He is blessing. One hand raised in blessing, the other pointing to His merciful heart. He invites you to His heart and is pouring His spirit upon us. God's love is an action and that is a blessing. Pope John Paul said Jesus came to reveal the Father, who is rich in mercy. That was our Lord's mission, to reveal God's mercy. From the beginning to the end of time, the whole of God's work is a blessing (catechism of the Catholic Church 1079). "The Father is acknowledged and adored as the source and the end of all blessings of creation and salvation. Through His word, which is Jesus Christ, He pours into our hearts the gift that contains all gifts, The Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1082)."







# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## 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.

#### ***Our Lord Speaks:***

**"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).

**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 as 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. It would also be very appropriate to say after you have received Holy Communion.

### **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. (Cont'd on page 16)





# Satan's Tabernacle

In a lot of homes the television has replaced the family dinner table. No longer are families coming together at the end of the day to communicate to each other on a personal level; share experiences, hobbies, or interest, and children are not receiving the benefit of their parent's life knowledge and moral teachings.

One time in our nation's history it was a standard practice to not only pray together, but to **"break bread" together** and strengthen the family bond.

In the Bible every special location was celebrated with a feast (meal) and Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples with a meal. In the book of Revelations (19:9) the "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb! Sharing a meal with those you love is important.

It is the duty of the parents to bring the family together to nurture the bond and unity of the family structure.

**The father is the provider and strength of the family**, the mother is the nurturer and heart of the family, and children are the innocence and life of the family; but most importantly and this must be priority is that **Christ be the center of the family**.

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not stray from it."

Father's set the tone in the family regarding faith (being a spiritual leader by emulating Christ) in the factor of discipline.

"Fathers do not exasperate children; instead bring them up in the training and instructions of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

Fathers need to set the example by being the example; do not set down rules for the household that you, yourself wouldn't do first.

The father and mother need to present a dignified and united front to children when presenting the rules or boundaries to children; otherwise the children will literally "divide and conquer" to attain their goals.

## Television dominates the home

The television set in most homes is in a place of dominance. It tears the family away from mealtime and each other. In some regards it can be seen as "Satan's tabernacle" because he's been allowed into the home (center of our living room), has taken priority over the family bond, and is constantly enticing are youth with worldly desires of the flesh. As the tabernacle is the center of our Church the television is the center of the domestic church.



In a lot of aspects, television is the only "church" that a lot of people experience; that of media saturation in the siren call of commercialism~ rather than God being the focal point of the family, it's the television or Internet quietly preying on our children unsuspectingly who do not possess the moral's to fight it.

## Families should tune out the "real" world and tune into God

The television and Internet are a visual means of communication, but should not be used to the detriment of our faith, character, or family life.

How are we to hear God in our lives if we are entranced by the television, iPhone, computer screen, or have your headphones on?

In (1 Kings 19:11-12) it reveals how God communicates to Elijah; "The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, after the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."

The Lord reveals Himself only when we are calm (as a silent whisper), attentive, and can hear what He has to say~ the same way to calm a worldly and unstable child is to find quiet time in prayer with God.

"The family that prays together stays together" was an often mentioned quote of Bishop Fulton Sheen and a good way to make this a family practice is to do a family rosary and Bible reading.

## Saint Faustina

"Silence is a sword in the spiritual struggle; a talkative soul will never attain sanctity. The sword of silence will cut off everything that would like to cling to the soul. We are sensitive to the words and quickly want to answer back, without taking any regard as to whether it is God's will that we should speak.

A silent soul is strong; no adversities will harm it if it preserves in silence. The silent soul is capable of attaining the closest union with God. It lives almost always under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God works in a silent soul without hindrance." (Diary of

Saint Faustina #477)

## The Truth has become a lie

The devil is in direct conflict with God and what is sacred to God the devil and his evilness has profaned.

The devil likes to turn truth upside down and make things in his image rather than the correct way which is God's image.

In the present age we have seen innocent children ripped from the place they feel most protected and cared for "the mother's womb". They have become a commodity instead of a blessing.

The rainbow is the promise of the covenant between God and us that the earth will never again be destroyed by flood waters.(Genesis 9:13-17), but now this covenant sign is being used as a acceptance sign for an immoral lifestyle.

In movies, television, and the Internet the images of a true man and a true woman is distorted. Men are portrayed as ignorant, weak, and even with feminine traits. Women are acting, dressing, and behaving as a male normally would, rather than being meek, humble, and loving of heart like the Blessed Mother.

The issue of transgender has been forefront in all the media aspects and this is very detrimental to the basic family unit.

**Live joyfully and fully the way God made you, He never makes mistakes. He is a loving Father who made you in His Image.**

Satan is the father of lies and loves to blur the line between truth (white) and lies (black) to make the color gray which is murky and sometimes hard to see through the fog of deception. That is why we need God as our guiding light through these dark and sinful times.

*Bible quotes taken from New American Bible (Catholic Edition)*





# Woe to you who are rich

***“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”*** Luke: 6, 24

*“And He called to him the Twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts ... and they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.”* Mark 6:7, 13

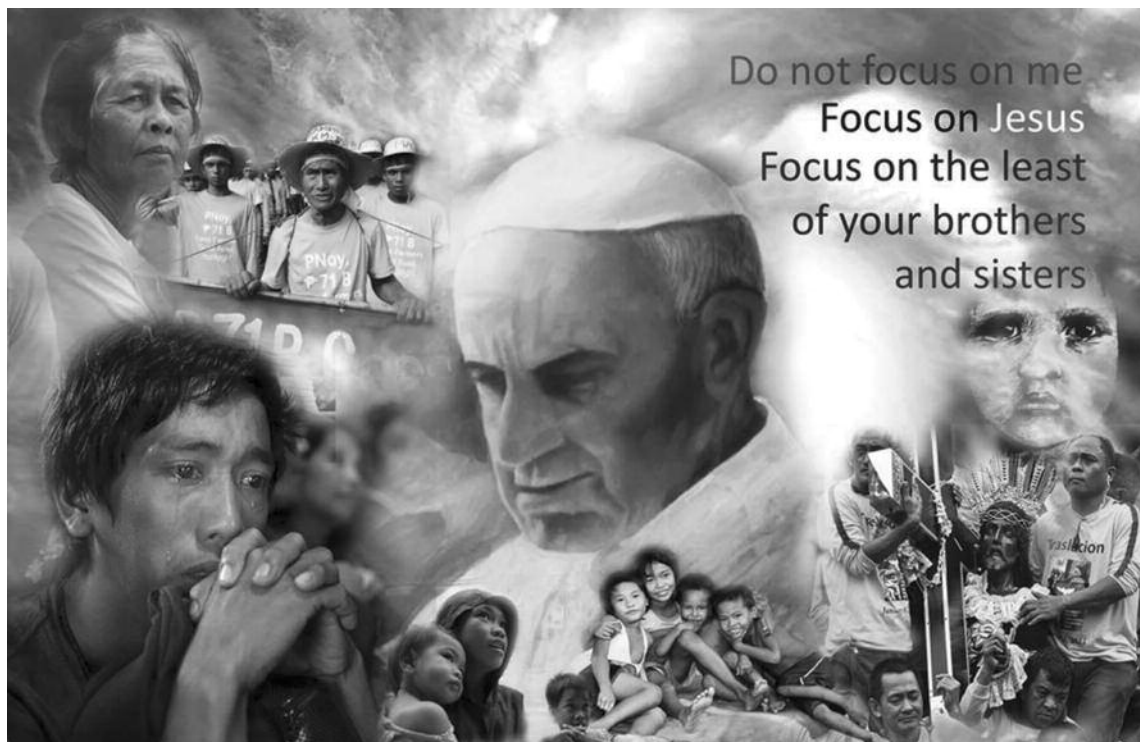
He instructed them to take nothing for the journey, no food, no sack and no money in their belts, which seems like a very odd command. You would think our Lord would better equip his apostles in their journey. What leader in his right mind would send his troops into the battlefield so poorly prepared? Would it not been better if He would've supplied them with plenty of food and plenty money for their journey?

Our Lord's command seems impractical and irresponsible. This is why we should pay close attention to it. Where human wisdom fails, divine wisdom is at work. He commanded them to take nothing for the journey, he commits them to poverty. The church calls this evangelical poverty. It is poverty because it denounces wealth and goods. It is evangelical because it announces the good news (The Gospel). This is the vow of poverty taken by those in religious orders; they renounce the right to own anything.

## Greater care for Gods creation

This deliberate choice to denounce material things of this world helps those in the religious world to give greater care for the things God gives them. They do not squander and waste precious things from God. It's the deliberate choice to be totally dependent on God and not on their own resources! Our Lords words to his apostles about poverty apply to us as well. Even though we have not taken a vow of poverty His words still apply to us. We are to live a simple life.

Our Lord is not asking us to live the same poverty as like Mother Teresa or St. Francis did. But we are called to live in poverty according to our state of life; not to be attached to material goods of this world. We are to provide for our family and our state of life as good stewards



of what God gives us. But we need to pay close the attention to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. They speak of the nature of what it means to be a follower of our Lord, which is simplicity and trust.

## Simplicity

Simplicity is detaching from the possessions of this world so we can attach to our Lord. How can we hold the hands of our Lord if our hands are full of worldly things? This does not mean a disregard for the creative things of the world or to be sloppy with our finances. It means a proper appreciation for these things and nothing more. Being able to do without these things and not being owned by them, and sometimes deliberately giving these things up so we can be more attached to our Lord. It means possessing these things and not being possessed by them, being able to set them aside and do without them when necessary. “No one can serve two masters.” He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon (wealth).” Mathew 6: 24

## What does the world need to see from us?

It does not need to see us chasing after all the material possessions. It needs to see in us a detachment from creative things, showing others the gospel instead of the iPad. If the world sees us in any other way then we have failed to be true witnesses of Jesus Christ. They took nothing for the journey, they had to trust our Lord and this takes great faith. The world tells us that you must have a big bank account, all the fancy new gadgets, plenty of retirement money, and to think of yourself not of others.

**Jesus, I trust in You!**  
*Our Lords words to Saint Faustina regarding trust:*

***“How painfully distrust of My goodness wounds Me! Sins of distrust wound Me most painfully.”*** (Diary 1076)

We must trust solely on our lord, even when it seems absurd and irrational to the world, this is why they call it faith. The more we trust in our own resources and our own ability the less we trust in Him. The more things we have the more we risk relying on them.

What is the first beatitude?  
***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of***

***heaven.”*** Mathew 5:3

Those that are detached from material goods and material possessions are blessed. Having the things and materials to sustain our very lives is ok, but nothing more.

He gave them authority over unclean spirits, and at the end of the passage we see that they drove out many demons. Detachment from material possessions protects us from spiritual combat with the devil. The more we are possessed by material goods the more the devil possesses us, throws us down, and strangles us. The more we have the more evil one can stir in our hearts, anxieties, stress, and envy of what others have. The less we have the less the devil has a hold of us.

All the great reforms in the church did not happen through wealth and power, they came through evangelical poverty.

**We must pay close attention to our Lords words carefully on being selfish with our time and money**

*“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from me you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ and they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* Mathew 25:41-46

Scripture quotes taken from second edition RSV Ignatius Bible



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## The Miracle of Mercy, The Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Did you know that the priest's sole function is to make us holy?

All are called to participate in the same divine beatitude which means *blessing*. We must become blessers. This image of The Divine Mercy is to let us see who we are supposed to be. We must become holy. We are blessed by God so that we can become holy. That's all He lives. That is His essence. He is a blesser and He wants us to share in His life and be blessers.

### Saint Faustina's mission in heaven is to share the great news of Divine Mercy with souls that are in misery

"I feel certain that my mission will not come to an end upon my death, but will begin. O doubting souls, I will draw aside for you the veils of heaven to convince you of God's goodness, so that you will no longer continue to wound with your distrust the sweetest heart of Jesus. God is love and mercy." (Diary 281)

### So, how can we live this merciful way?

In our misery, we must plunge into the infinite ocean of God's mercy with complete trust in Jesus. When doubts assail me, I can pray unceasingly, "Jesus, I Trust in You!" I nestle close to Your heart. (Diary 1726)

### Our Lord Speaks:

"I am love and mercy itself" (Diary 1074)... "Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet" (Diary 699)... "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world" (Diary 1485)... "Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul" (Diary 1777)... "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy." (Diary 723)

God is trying to tell us that we are wounded by sin and He wants us to be healed. He wants us to put trust in Him.

### The Miracle of Mercy,



### the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 Reconciliation, 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.

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20: 22-23)

When Jesus died on the cross, He forgave all our sins. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ and cleansed white as snow. We accept His mercy and cast all of our sins on Him, but through life we fail and we sin again. We become doubting souls and we doubt His merciful cross. We doubt that He took our sins away. Priests confirm this to us in the confessional, but then He pronounces the words of absolution of His cross at Calvary which was given

to us two thousand years ago. God lives as I said before in the eternal now, these graces from His cross are being blasted back and forth in time. In the confessional you may see the priest, but it is actually Christ offering His cross to us and letting us know again and again that we are forgiven, for He took our sins away. But, we become doubting souls, we must be with Jesus so we can hear His words, "Your sins are forgiven," which comes through the priest's mouth.

### Our Lord's Words to Faustina

### 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 [The Sacrament of Reconciliation]... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated (Diary 1448)... 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, 1602)

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.





# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## The Miracle of Mercy, The Sacrament of Reconciliation

### The Pardon of the Sinful Woman (Luke 7)

As Jesus dines with a Pharisee, a sinful woman bringing ointment decides to enter his house. She stood behind Him at His feet, weeping, and began to bathe His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair and kissed them and anointed them. The Pharisee was angry because he thought if Jesus were a prophet, He would have known she was a bad sinner.

**Verse 40** Jesus said to Him in reply, **“Simon, I have something to say to you.”** “Tell me, Teacher,” he said. **“Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?”** Simon said in reply, **“The one I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven.”** He said to him, **“You have judged rightly.”** Our Lord was saying two thousand years ago just as He says today, “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy, and who will love Him more? The one who has many sins, because much has been forgiven.”

### The Confessor is a physician of the Soul

How can a doctor prescribe a suitable remedy if he does not know the nature of the sickness? Never will he be able to do so. If you do not reveal to the confessor the misery of your soul (your sins), how can a doctor help you? Jesus gives us free will and if we want to keep our sins, He respects our wishes.

### Open yourself fully in the Confessional

This comes through patience and kindness of the priest. A doctor cannot heal you if you won't tell him where it hurts. Hold nothing back in the Confessional. How can a doctor prescribe a suitable remedy if he does not know the nature of the sickness?

### Humility is the key to an Outstanding Confession

A soul does not benefit as it should from the Sacrament of healing if it is not humble. Pride will



keep you in darkness. The soul puts up a wall and avoids the remedy for recovery. Pride and shame are what will prevent your soul from a closer union with God.

### Obedience is also the key to Advancement in a Holy Life

When the soul enters the sacrament of healing, it should be deeply humble, holding nothing back then, advancement in holiness begins.

### In the Confessional, God pours knowledge into the Soul

If I wanted to know you, I mean really know you, and wanted to become you, how would I do it? I would have to live with you, walk with you, be with you, and ask you question after question about yourself. I would have to get under your skin. Well, this should happen in the confessional. Christ is truly present, hidden by the priest. Talk to Him as a friend. Live in the confessional and let Him pour all the

knowledge and graces you need to become Christ. He wants you to take on His divinity. How did our Saints become great Saints? By frequent confession.

### 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” (1448)... “Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen” (1725)... “The blood and water which came forth from My heart always flows down upon your soul” (1602)... In the tribunal of mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation].**

### What is this tribunal of Mercy?

Faustina: When I left the confessional, ineffable joy filled my soul, so that I withdrew to a secluded spot in the garden to hide myself from the sisters to allow my heart to pour itself out to God. God's presence penetrated me and, in an instant, all my nothingness was drowned in God; and at the same moment I felt, or rather discerned, the three divine persons dwelling in me (Diary 175). Confession is an encounter with Three Divine Persons. It is an encounter with the Trinity.

### Before you go to Confession, you must have tears of repentance

Before you go to Confession, stir up the tears of repentance and there is no better way of doing this than to remember the passion of Christ (Calvary). To get in touch with what Christ suffered for you and me, you must realize with each sin, you helped drive the nails into Him. Here is that “eternal now” again. If God lives in the eternal now, then He saw your future sins, so you also drove the nails into His pure body. In the confessional, you must stir up your heart with great trust, then God will give you a new heart.

**(Catechism 1428)** The human heart is converted by looking upon Him who our sins have pierced, to stir up the tears of repentance.



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## The Miracle of Mercy, The Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Where do the greatest miracles take place?**

*Our Lord Speaks:*

**“In the tribunal of mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation]... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated”** (Diary 1448). I would have never thought it would be in the confessional, but that’s what Our Lord told Saint Faustina. I would have thought it would be some healing service, or I would have to go to Lourdes, or Fatima, or to one of these apparition sites. But, no, Our Lord says in the Confessional.

*Our Lord Speaks:*

**“To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one’s misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be demonstrated”** (Diary 1448).

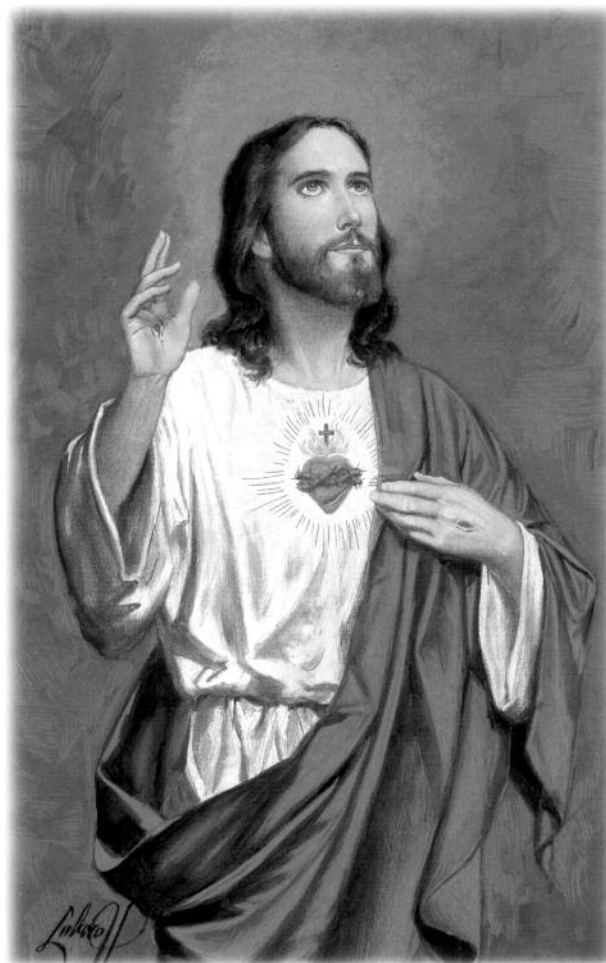
*Conversion and miracles take place in the confessional!*

**Why does Our Lord say, come to Me in the confessional and reveal one’s misery?**

We are wounded. We need healing. Oh, how miserable souls must be who do not take advantage of God’s miracle of mercy. What’s Our Lord say again? **We are like a decaying corpse and from a human standpoint, there would be no hope.** But not so with God. He wants us next to His sacred heart and healed of our misery. Our Lord told Saint Faustina:

*Our Lord Speaks:*

**“Fight for the salvation of souls, exhorting them to trust in My mercy, as that is your task in this life and in the life to come.”** (Diary 1452)



grace turns away from them to humble souls” (Diary 1602).

**When the priest absolves you of your sin, it is Christ who is forgiving you.**

*Our Lord Speaks:*

**“My daughter, just as you prepare in My presence, so also you 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) The priest veils Christ. Christ, Himself, is forgiving you through the priest.

**I give you a new Commandment... As I have loved you, so you must love one another** (John 13:34)

**Be merciful even as your Father is merciful.** (Lk. 6:36)

Faustina is fighting for us to trust in His mercy. Only that soul who rejects it will be damned, for God condemns no one. If I go to the confessional only to have my sins forgiven, I’m missing all this. I will get what I ask for. I will receive in proportion to what I’m open to and expecting. If I go with trust, trusting that the greatest miracles of my life are about to take place and are going to be incessantly repeated and they are going to restore me in full, that’s a different thing than just having sins forgiven. The more you are open to, the more you will receive. It all depends on trust. Now, go to Confession expecting miracles.

*Our Lord Speaks:*

**“I am only hidden by the priest, but I, Myself, act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity** (Diary 1602)... The proud remain always in poverty and misery, because My







# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## I Demand From You Deeds of Mercy



### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**"I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise 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. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first, by deed. The second, by word. The third, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays a reverence to My mercy." (Diary of Saint Faustina, #742)**

### *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. 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." (#1317)**

The church teaches to be merciful in various ways:

### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

1. Admonish sinners.
2. Instruct the uninformed.
3. Counsel the doubtful.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Bear wrongs patiently.
6. Forgive offenses.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Comfort the imprisoned.
6. Visit the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

### **Missing the Mark**

Do we sometimes look for the great deeds of mercy and look over the little deeds that we can do with great love?

Do we overlook our children who need our help, to spend hours upon hours helping others while our children are falling apart? Do we help in all the parish functions while our wife is at home wanting some time with her husband? Yes, there are works of mercy around your house like changing a diaper, rocking your child to sleep, teaching them how to ride their bike, praying a family rosary, helping with homework, cooking dinner, and for each deed you do you say to yourself, "I do this for love of you, Jesus."



### **Do works of mercy as a family**

### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

1. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty. Take the children to the soup kitchen to work. Take children grocery shopping for the poor.
2. Clothe the naked. Our Savior tells us that if a person has two coats, he should give one away. Excess clothing can be donated to clothing drives, local refugee groups.
3. Shelter the homeless. The unemployed living in cars or abandoned tunnels are in desperate need of help, both material and spiritual. Aging relatives may be just as homeless when they leave their homes for rest homes. Take the family and visit the elderly in the rest homes.
4. Comfort the imprisoned. Visiting prisoners is a beautiful thing, but, some are prisoners in their own home. The handicapped, the sick, the elderly, the new mother. For them, comfort can be a quick visit to say, "I love you."
5. Visit the sick. This is very hard with such a busy schedule to visit the sick, but for the person being visited, that time you give is very precious to them.
6. Bury the dead. Personal expression of sympathy include a hug, or handshake, or a donation of food. Offer a Mass for the loved one. Pray for their soul. Remember we are supposed to support the living in their sorrow.





# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## I Demand From You Deeds of Mercy

### A parable of Mercy (Luke 10: 29-37)

To a lawyer who asked Him, “and who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Ending the parable Our Lord said, **“Go and do likewise.”** Yes, we should be good Samaritans when we see our neighbor in need; we must be merciful to those in misery.

### Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish sinners. To correct someone can be as hard. It means standing up for moral principles at work, at school, in politics, or in the home. It is not telling someone how much you know about the Bible, but for sticking up for the truth. By doing this we are protecting children.

2. Instruct the uninformed. Not everyone can be a school teacher, priest, or religious leader, but we



5. Bear wrongs patiently. Complaints of elderly, freeway traffic, drudgery of a job, those who never say a kind word—all require patience. Strive for patience. Offer a simple smile and say a prayer for them.

6. Forgive offenses. Sharp criticism, physical injuries, someone talking about your child, death by a drunken driver, needs much forgiveness. Dwelling on a wrong only increases its size and breeding hatred will only lead to hatred of oneself. Forgiveness heals everything.

7. Pray for the living and the dead. It is impossible to reach everyone, even those in our own family, but we can reach out to them in prayer. All people, dead or alive, benefit from a remembrance in prayer. There is no greater gift than to offer a Mass up for a soul in purgatory or a friend still living.

### 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).

can remind our family of basic morality. We are all called to be a priestly people and to evangelize to the four corners of the earth.

3. Counsel the doubtful. Advice is cheap, but counseling someone is more loving. Doubts about one’s faith, about abortion, marriage, or questions arising from death or divorce, do not need a “brush-off.” Doubts need direction from a Christian approach.

4. Comfort the sorrowful. Death, divorce, grave illness, unemployment, family problems, mental distress, and surgery. How many of these sorrows afflict people around you and go unnoticed without a simple hug, or a kind word, or without a simple prayer for them? Sometimes just spending time with them and making them laugh is a great sign of love.

Pray much as a family. Pray the rosary as a family for the conversion of the world. Go to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Visit Jesus for He is the great doctor. Study scripture as a family. Study your Catechism.







# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

## 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)**



# 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 desire 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 disappeared 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, Jesus calls out again:

Jesus: 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 co-operation 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: (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: **Sisters of Life** (718) 325-9002, **Rachel's Vineyard** (877) 467-3463 and **Bethesda Healing Ministries** (614) 309-2651 if you need a loving voice to talk to. (Life Foundation is a non affiliate of Sisters of Life, Rachel's Vineyard and Bethesda.)







## Don't forget to order your 28 page Lenten Divine Mercy Messenger



How to prepare your family, parish and friends for Divine Mercy Sunday

### NOW IS THE TIME FOR MERCY

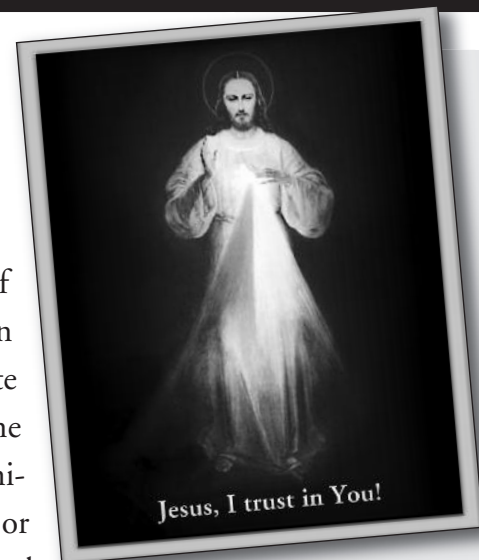
Some of the articles and stories found in the Lenten Messenger:

- Learn how to properly Celebrate Mercy Sunday
- How to pray the Chaplet of Mercy
- Nine Day Novena to Divine Mercy
- Plenary Indulgence attached to Mercy Sunday
- The Image of Divine Mercy
- The Eucharist, Life and Summit of Mercy Sunday
- Much, Much More!

You can go online at our website to read and review at:  
**feastofmercy.net**

## BE A PART

If you would like to be a part of spreading our Lord's image, you can receive this beautiful 8x10 duplicate of the original print of the Divine Mercy Jesus for only 25 cents (minimum order 10). Please write to us or email us for your order. Shipping and handling is required.



### 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.*

### Laity for Mercy

2145 Ransom Oaks Dr.  
Columbus, Ohio 43228

(614) 732-0662

**www.feastofmercy.net**

## 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

# 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

speaking 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 ourselves 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 BLESSED MOTHER REVEALS TO ST. FAUSTINA

“Oh, how pleasing to God is the soul that follows faithfully, the inspirations of His grace! I gave the savior to the world; as for you, you have to speak to the world about His great mercy and prepare the world for His Second Coming of Him who will come, not as a merciful savior, but as a just Judge. Oh, how terrible is that day! Determined is the day



of justice, the day of divine wrath. The angels tremble before it. Speak to souls about this great mercy while there is still time for granting mercy, if you keep silent now, you will be answering for a great number of souls on that terrible day. Fear nothing, be nothing, be faithful to the end. I sympathize with you.”

(Diary # 635)

## THE DIVINE MERCY MESSENGER “My Jesus, I Trust In You”

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Scripture quotations from the *St. Joseph New American Bible*

We are an outreach organization of the Life Foundation.

This publication was reviewed by Father William Deville to assure that it does not contain errors pertaining to faith, morals, and Catholic doctrine.

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Page 6, 7, Excerpts taken from Vinny Flynn's talk on the Eucharist, the hidden secret

Page 9, Written by the publisher of the Divine Mercy Messenger

Page 12, Written by the Laura McCall and the publisher of the Divine Mercy Messenger

Page 14, 15, Excerpts taken from talk given by Bishop Fulton Sheen on Sex and Food (written by Laura McCall)

Page 13, Excerpts taken from sermon given by Fr Scalia on July 12, 2015 'Christian Simplicity and Trust'

Back page calendar for jubilee year of mercy taken from, [www.zenit.org/year-of-mercy-calendar](http://www.zenit.org/year-of-mercy-calendar)

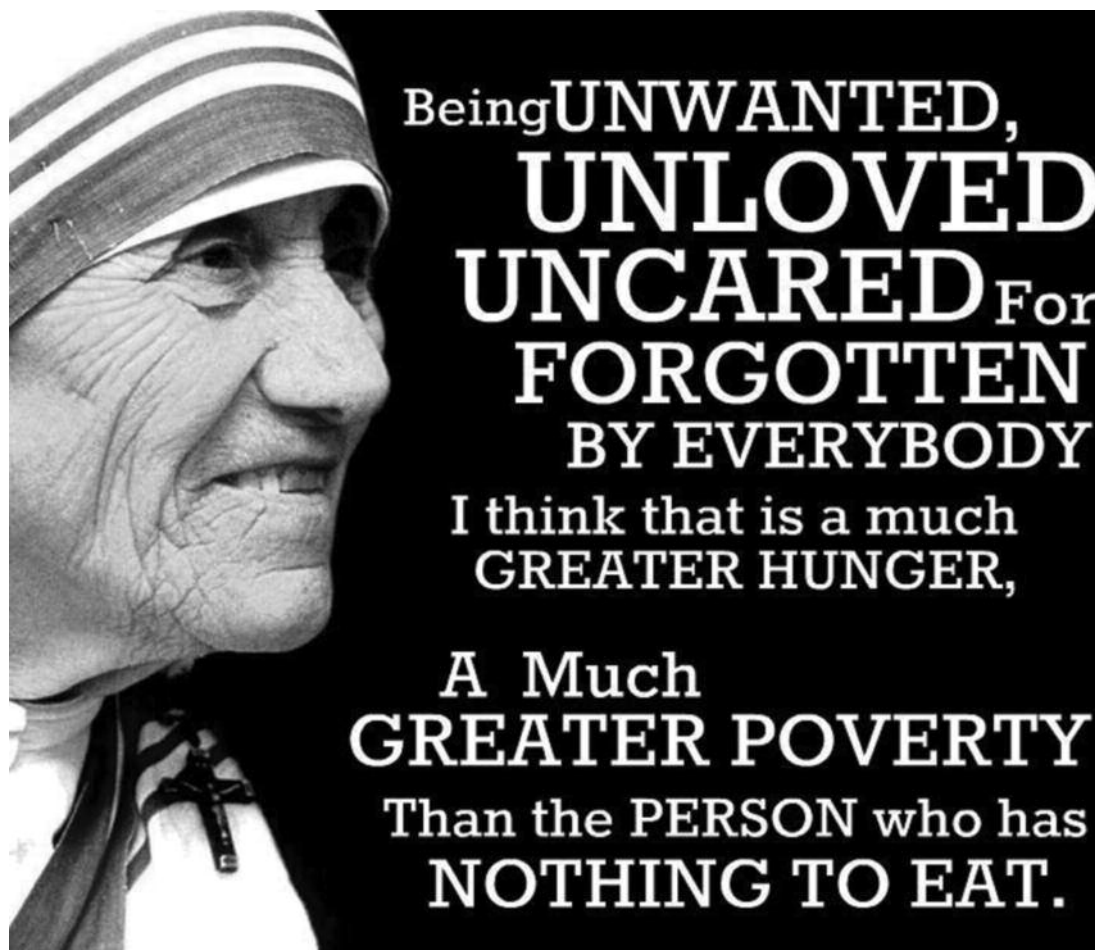
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# Jubilee Year of Mercy

## What are things we can do to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy?

- Forgive those who have hurt you or have done you wrong. If possible, consider forgiving debts owed you and/or returning collateral.
- Go to Confession regularly — monthly or even weekly.
- Read and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures, especially the Gospel of Luke.
- Perform one or more works of mercy every day.
- Go on a pilgrimage.
- Share the Good News of God's mercy through your words and good deeds.
- Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in your parish, receiving Communion in the state of grace in order to receive the "clean slate grace."
- Place the Divine Mercy Image in a prominent place in your home and venerate it daily.
- Offer a novena of chaplets for the intentions Jesus gave St. Faustina in the nine days preceding Divine Mercy Sunday (see page 21).
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily, imploring mercy "on us, and on the whole world."
- Make the Stations of the Cross regularly, especially at 3 p.m., the Hour of Great Mercy.
- Read Divine Mercy in My Soul — Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.
- Fulfill the conditions for plenary indulgences and offer those indulgences for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Resolve to learn more about some saints who are outstanding for receiving mercy or showing God's mercy to those around them.



*such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness." — Pope Francis*

In calling for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to know the face of God's mercy — Jesus Christ Incarnate — and to show that face of mercy to our friends and neighbors (as well as our enemies!).

## What is a Jubilee year?

The Holy See says that, in the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year or Jubilee is a great religious event, held roughly every 25 years, for the forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin. The Christian Jubilee tradition began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Since that time, the Church has

celebrated 26 ordinary and three extraordinary Jubilee Years. A Jubilee is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, conversion, and a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consequently, it is a time of solidarity, hope, justice, and commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee Year is, above all, the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity

## How to receive the Jubilee plenary indulgence

This time around, Pope Francis is seeking to make the indulgence as widely available as possible. In the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, a Holy Door is to be opened in every cathedral around the world, as well as in particular shrines, such as the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where large numbers of pilgrims come to honor the mercy of God.

Even though we can only obtain one plenary indulgence a day, if you perform the required actions for other plenary indulgences on the same day, you can still obtain multiple partial indulgences.

To receive the Jubilee Year indulgence, you must fulfill the usual conditions, (specified below) and perform the indulgenced act: passing through a designated Holy Door during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (between Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King) or performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

*Continued on page 27*

*"I am confident that the whole Church, which is in*





# Jubilee Year of Mercy



## How to receive the Jubilee plenary indulgence *(continued)*

As for the sick and the elderly, the Holy Father says, "For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence."

For the imprisoned, the Holy Father says, "They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom."

You may receive the plenary indulgence yourself, or offer it for a person in purgatory.

Please see [PrayForSouls.org/indulgence1](http://PrayForSouls.org/indulgence1) to read the Holy Father's letter on the Jubilee Year indulgence.

## To receive a plenary indulgence

To refresh everyone's memories, here are the normal conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence:

- It is necessary that the faithful be in the state

of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed.

- A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- receive the Holy Eucharist (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required); and
- Pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

- It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is suf-

ficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an Our Father and a Hail Mary are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

- For the sake of those legitimately impeded, confessors can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).
- Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

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**"Even I go to Confession every 15 days, because the Pope is also a sinner. And the confessor listens to what I tell him, he advises me and absolves me, because we are all in need of this forgiveness." - Pope Francis**



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

Opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica

**Sunday, December 13, 2015**

*III Sunday of Advent*

Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. John Lateran and in the Cathedrals of the world

**Friday, January 1, 2016**

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

World Day for Peace

Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

**Tuesday, January 19, -  
Thursday, January 21, 2016**

Jubilee for those Engaged in Pilgrimage Work

**Monday, January 25, 2016**

*Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul*

Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls

**“Jubilee” sign of the Holy Father:  
witness of the works of mercy**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

*Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Day for Consecrated Life*

Jubilee for Consecrated Life and the closing of the Year for Consecrated Life

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

*Ash Wednesday*

Sending forth of the Missionaries of Mercy, St. Peter's Basilica

**Monday, February 22, 2016**

*Feast of the Chair of St. Peter*

Jubilee for the Roman Curia



**“Jubilee” sign of the Holy Father:  
witness of the works of mercy**

**Friday, March 4 and  
Saturday, March 5, 2016**

“24 Hours for the Lord” with a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica on the afternoon of Friday, March 4

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

*Palm Sunday*

The diocesan day for youth in Rome

**“Jubilee” sign of the Holy Father:  
witness of the works of mercy**

**Sunday, April 3, 2016**

*Divine Mercy Sunday*

Jubilee for those who are devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy

**Sunday, April 24, 2016**

*Sunday of Easter*

*Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 24, 2016*

Jubilee for young boys and girls (ages 13 – 16)

*To profess the faith and construct a culture of mercy.*

**“Jubilee” sign of the Holy Father:  
witness of the works of mercy**

**Sunday, May 27-29, 2016**

*The Solemnity of Corpus Christi in Italy*

Jubilee for deacons

**Friday, June 3, 2016**

*Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Jubilee for priests

160 years since the introduction of the Feast by Pius IX in 1856

**Sunday, June 12, 2016**

*XI Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Jubilee for those who are ill and for persons with disabilities

**“Jubilee” sign of the Holy Father:  
witness of the works of mercy**

**Tuesday, July 26 –  
Sunday, July 31, 2016**

*To conclude on the XVIII Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Jubilee for young people.

World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland

**Sunday, September 4, 2016**

*XXIII Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Memorial of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta – September 5, Jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**

*XXVI Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Jubilee for catechists

**Saturday, October 8 and  
Sunday, October 9, 2016**

*Saturday and Sunday after the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary*

Marian Jubilee

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

*Solemnity of All Saints*

Holy Mass celebrated by the Holy Father in memory of the faithful departed

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

*XXXII Sunday of Ordinary Time*

In St. Peter's Basilica, the Jubilee for prisoners

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

*XXXIII Sunday of Ordinary Time*

Closing of the Holy Doors in the Basilicas of Rome and in the Dioceses of the world

**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

*Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy

**Resources:**

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/year-of-mercy-calendar>

<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>