

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU! – THE DIVINE MERCY

DEVOTIONS

Presentation by James F. Gontis

Quotations are taken from the Diary of St. Faustina, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, available from Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA.

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

In the 1930's, the Lord Jesus, in a series of private revelations, appeared to a Polish nun, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. He told her that he wanted her to write down what he told her about His message of Mercy and that she would be the "apostle and secretary" of His Mercy. Sr. Faustina was eventually beatified by Saint John Paul II in 1983 and canonized by him in the year 2000. In his homily at the Mass of St. Faustina's canonization, St. John Paul declared the Second Sunday of Easter would now be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

The following includes some biographical information on Saint Faustina, as well as information regarding the various aspects of the Divine Mercy devotions.

- I. Saint Faustina – Born August 25, 1905; Entered Religious life August 1, 1925; Beatified by St. John Paul II on April 18, 1993; Canonized by St. John Paul II on April 30, 2000.
 - A. Born Helena Kowalska on August 25, 1905 in Lodz, Poland, the 3rd of 10 children.
 - B. At 19, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. This order is devoted to the care and education of troubled young women.
 - C. Took her religious habit the following year and took the religious name Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
 - D. 1930s, the Lord Jesus began appearing to her & told her to spread His message of Divine Mercy.
 - E. She began keeping a diary in 1934 and in four years wrote approximately 600 pages about her mystical experiences as well as her own thoughts and insights.

- F. Jesus asked her to be His “apostle of mercy,” “secretary of God’s mercy,” a model of mercy, and an instrument of His mercy.
 - G. She offered her hardships and sufferings in reparation for the sins of mankind.
 - H. She had great devotion to the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance, as well as to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 - I. She exemplified humility, joy, purity, and obedience.
 - J. The message of mercy has been spreading since her death in 1938.
- II. Some basic fundamentals of the Divine Mercy devotions
- A. As “simple as ABC” – Ask for Mercy, Be Merciful, Completely Trust in His Mercy.
 - B. Sacred Scripture
 1. Matthew 5:7 – *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*
 2. Matthew 7: 7-8 – *Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you.*
- III. The Holy Eucharist: The Fount of Mercy
- IV. Sacrament of Confession: The Tribunal of Mercy
- V. Mary, Mother of Mercy

The Divine Mercy Chaplet (Normally prayed with rosary beads.)

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- First three prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary, Apostles Creed.
- On each of the “Our Father” beads of the Rosary, the following prayer is recited, sung, or chanted:
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 each of the Hail Mary beads of the Rosary, the following prayer is recited, sung, or chanted:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- At the end of the Chaplet, say three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

- End with the Sign of the Cross.

Sister Faustina records in her diary entitled *Divine Mercy in My Soul* that the Lord Jesus spoke these words to her regarding the chaplet:

Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. 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. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My Mercy. (687)

Write that 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. (1541)

Note: This in no way implies that the Divine Mercy Chaplet is a replacement for the sacraments. It is not. However, the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet for a dying person provides a tremendous torrent of graces for the dying person.

The Image of the Divine Mercy

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You... I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory (47, 48).

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

I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world (47).

The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls 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 a lance on the Cross (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 (742).

Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace (313).

The Novena to the Divine Mercy

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

Begins on Good Friday and ends on Saturday in the Octave of Easter.
As recorded in her diary, our Lord asked Sister Faustina for prayers for different groups of people each day:

First Day – **Today bring to me all mankind, especially all sinners...**

Second Day – **Today bring to me the souls of Priests and Religious...**

Third Day – **Today bring to me all devout and faithful souls...**

Fourth Day – **Today bring to me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know me...**

Fifth Day – **Today bring to me those who have separated themselves from the Church**

Sixth Day – **Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children...**

Seventh Day – **Today bring to Me the souls of those who especially glorify and venerate My Mercy...**

Eighth Day – **Today bring to Me the souls who are detained in Purgatory...**

Ninth Day – **Today bring to Me souls who have become lukewarm...**

Divine Mercy Sunday

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

On April 30, 2000, at the canonization of St. Faustina, St. John Paul II said the Sunday after Easter Sunday would be known as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. A plenary indulgence is available to those who observe *Divine Mercy Sunday* following the usual prescriptions – sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion, freedom from all attachment to sin.

Fitting ways to commemorate Divine Mercy Sunday:

- Sincerely repent of all of our sins.
- Place our complete trust in Jesus.
- Go to Confession.
- Receive Holy Communion.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Venerate the Image of the Divine Mercy, e.g. a bow before the image.
- Be merciful to others through our prayers, words, and actions.
- Many parishes also have a period of Eucharistic adoration during this time.

This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of My tender mercies (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 fountain of My mercy (699).

The Hour of Great Mercy – 3 p.m.

As recorded in her diary, the Lord Jesus asked Saint Faustina to pray in a special way at the 3 o' clock hour each afternoon. This is the hour that our Lord died on the Cross. Below are some of the things that Jesus recommended that St. Faustina do during this "Hour of Great Mercy."

Note: It is clear in St. Faustina's diary that these recommendations are not only for her, but for others as well. They are excellent ideas for us to incorporate into our own prayer lives.

- At three o' clock, implore the Lord's Divine Mercy for the whole world and especially for sinners (*cf. Divine Mercy In My Soul #1320*).

- Immerse yourself in our Lord's Passion, even if only for a moment, and particularly in His abandonment at the moment of agony. St. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus promised that He will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Him in virtue of His Passion (*cf. Divine Mercy In My Soul #1320*). **Note:** What one asks for must be in accordance with the will of God.
- At three o' clock, immerse yourself completely in the Lord's Mercy, adoring and glorifying it.
- Invoke the omnipotence of the Lord's Mercy for the whole world and especially for poor sinners.
- Jesus said to St. Faustina that in this hour one can obtain everything for oneself and for others for the asking. **Note:** What one asks for must be in accordance with the will of God.
- You can make the Stations of the Cross, make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or simply immerse yourself in prayer for a moment where you happen to be.

The Sacrament of Penance: The Tribunal of Mercy

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

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 (1602)

...In the Tribunal of Mercy (the Sacrament of Confession)... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated (1448).

...Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy (1602).

The Holy Eucharist: The Presence of Mercy

The Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.

Each time we receive the Eucharist, we receive the Lord Jesus in His totality as true God and true man.

“All the good that is in me is due to Holy Communion.” – St. Faustina

“Herein lies the whole secret of my sanctity.” – St. Faustina

The Holy Eucharist is the fount of Divine Mercy. The Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life.”

Complete Trust in Divine Mercy

(Words in bold are words of Jesus to Saint Faustina as recorded by her in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*).

I am Love and Mercy itself (1074).

While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy (848).

He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy, must pass through the door of my justice (1146).

Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet (699).

My Mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world (1485).

Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My Mercy not embrace a trusting soul (1777)

