



You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Mk 12:30

# BLESS MY FAMILY BLESS MY CHURCH

St. Michael Center for the Blessed Virgin Mary



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St. Michael the Archangel defend us in the day of battle!

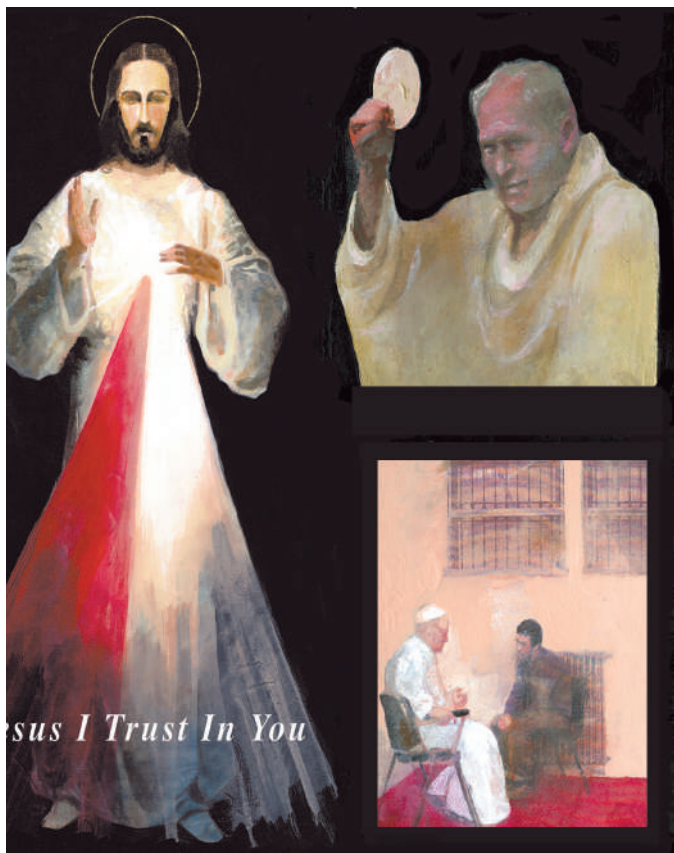


## THE DIVINE MERCY MESSENGER

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# PREPARING EACH PARISH AND EACH SOUL FOR THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

## 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024



*Jesus I Trust In You*

### Our Lord Speaks:

“Speak to the world about my mercy... It is a sign for the end times. After it will come the day of justice (848)... You will prepare the world for my final coming.” (Diary 429).

### Our Lord Speaks:

“The greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to my mercy; {urge} all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of my mercy, because I want to save them all. On the cross, the fountain of my mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls-no one have I excluded!” (Diary 1182).

### Our Lord Speaks:

“The Feast emerged from the very depths of my mercy and it is confirmed to the vast depths of my tender mercies (420)...it is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.”

### Our Lord Speaks:

“I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of mine towards souls of sinners. 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).

On June 13, 2002, Pope John Paul II grants plenary indulgence for Feast of Mercy.

“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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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**1. TO FEED THE HUNGRY.** Everyone needs food for their body. It is an act of love to help others to obtain their bodily nourishment, especially those in greatest need. [Examples: Bringing food to the poor, donating money to buy food for the poor, sharing your food or candy, helping to shop for groceries, helping with the cooking, doing dishes, waiting on company.]

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## SAINT FAUSTINA AND THE FEAST OF MERCY

Saint Sister M. Faustina Kowalska, known today the world over as the “Apostle of the Divine Mercy.” She was the third of ten children born into a poor and pious family in Glogowiec, a village in Poland. When she was only seven, Helen already sensed in her soul the call to embrace the religious life. Helen tried to ignore the divine call within her. Pressed on however by a vision of the suffering Christ and by the words of His reproach.

### Our Lord Speaks:

“How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting me off?” (Diary 9)

In 1925, Helen joined the convent of the congregation of sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. After a few weeks she experienced nonetheless a strong temptation to transfer to a different congregation in which there would be more time for prayer. It was then the Lord Jesus manifesting to her His wounded and tortured face.

### Our Lord Speaks:

“It is you who will cause me this pain if you leave this convent. It is this place that I called you and nowhere else and [it is here] I have prepared many graces for you” (Diary 19). Her entire life was concentrated on constant striving for an even fuller union with God and self-sacrificing cooperation with Jesus in the work of saving souls.

### Faustina wrote in her Diary:

“You know that from my earliest years I have wanted to become a great saint; that is to say, I have wanted to love you with a love so great that there would be no soul who has hither to love you so!” (Diary 1372)

In her diary she reveals the depths of her soul. This diary is an attentive reading



of the records of a soul of a high degree of union with God. All are invited to read it.

### Faustina was given Great Graces

The Lord endowed her with great graces, with the gift of contemplation, with deep knowledge of the mystery of the mercy of God, with visions, revelations and the hidden stigmata, with gift of prophecy and of reading into human souls.

“Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect but rather the intimate union of the soul with God... My sanctity and perfection is based upon the close union of my will with the will of God.” (Diary 1107)

St. Faustina laid down her life in sacrifice for sinners and on this account she also sustained diverse sufferings. The spreading of tuberculosis attacked her lungs and alimentary canal. Physically ravaged, but fully mature in spiritually, she died in the order of sanctity, mystically united with God on October 5, 1938, 33 years of age. Her mortal remains were laid rest in Cracow Lagiewniki.

This courageous woman, Our Lord Jesus consigned the great mission to proclaim His message of mercy to the whole world.

### 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)

### Our Lord Speaks:

“You are the secretary of My mercy; I have chosen you for that office in this and the next life.” (Diary 1605)

### 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 the Divine Mercy

The institution was requested by Jesus in 1931, while he was communicating His will regarding the painting of the Image of 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)

### Our Lord Speaks:

“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners.” (Diary 699) “Souls perish in spite of My bitter passion. 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, 998)

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

What is a Feast?

The church commemorates (honors) a mystery of the lord or our Lady or keeps the memory’s of a Saint, and what is this mystery of our Lord we are remembering non other than His mercy. This is a celebration of Gods mercy.



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**2. TO GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY.** What is said of food also applies to drink. [Examples: Giving someone a drink on a hot day, giving the baby its bottle, pouring drinks at the table, lifting up a young child to get a drink at a water fountain.]

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## SAINT FAUSTINA AND THE FEAST OF MERCY

### Why do we need Divine Mercy Sunday?

Your sins and my sins are 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 our 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.

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

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 and Mercy Sunday, as the main revelation that Jesus gave to St. Faustina, in 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 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 Fountain of My mercy." (Holy Communion) (Diary 699)

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

Yes its like being baptized again. No purgatory, no punishment, This sounds to good to be true, its Gods 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 a imperfect union, purgatory makes their union perfect.



### What is grace?

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

#### Our Lord Speaks:

"Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life (Holy communion) on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 300)



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**3. TO CLOTHE THE NAKED.** Everyone needs clothing for warmth, protection, modesty and dignity. It is an act of love to help others obtain clothing, especially those who need help. [Examples: Bringing clothes to a needy family, sharing outgrown clothes with another family, bringing clothes to a clothing drive, helping a young child get dressed, helping with laundry at home.]

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## EUCHARIST, THE HIDDEN SECRET

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. 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. We suffer and sadness enters our hearts. If we truly believed in Jesus 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.”



### Christ is not alone

The church teaches that the Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ and that the divinity of Christ means the entire God Head, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Together 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 go 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 1385)

### 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 1477)



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**4. TO VISIT THE IMPRISONED.** Those in prison and many other persons and their families suffer hindrances or dangers to freedom. Helping them, visiting them or protecting them is an act of love. [Examples: Visiting prisoners, fighting for humane treatment for the imprisoned, helping to care for the families of the imprisoned, protecting a little child from a bigger child, taking care of and protecting the baby, fighting for one's country.]

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## EUCCHARIST, THE HIDDEN SECRET

**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. All other priests share in the priesthood of Christ and the laity in a different way share in the one priesthood of Christ, but always Christ is 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.

### **We need to do something more than just receive communion**

We need to do something more than just receive Communion. We must become Communion. We must enter into Communion with our 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: One is sacramental eating; we receive with belief that this is truly the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ when we are receiving this sacrament. This is different from a mouse or a dog that were to take communion.

Then there is a spiritual eating, and the two should happen at the same time. The spiritual eating is where we do something. We actively unite ourselves with Christ.

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

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 circumstances, Christ honors this desire and the graces 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.



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**5. TO SHELTER THE HOMELESS.** Everyone needs shelter. Some people live in cardboard homes; some people live in homes made of discarded materials; many people are homeless. To help the homeless obtain shelter or to preserve it is an act of love. [Examples: Bringing others to your home in times of fire, floods, or other disaster. Working at or supporting a homeless shelter. Helping to take care of the house, dusting the furniture, making the beds, cleaning the floor, and cutting the grass.]

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## EUCHARIST, THE HIDDEN SECRET



### **If we invite him into our hearts, he takes over and becomes the host**

This is what happened on the Road to Emmaus. 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 and he prepares the meal and feeds us.

### **We to 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-and holy spirit and the whole heavenly kingdom. All the saints and angels are present, you receive all of Christ, body, soul and divinity. If you die in the 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, because 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 with every Communion**

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 other 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.” 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.



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**6. TO VISIT THE SICK.** Helping sick people in any way is an act of love. [Examples: Visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home. Visiting someone who is sick at home or the elderly who are shut-ins. Running an errand for an elderly or sick person. Reading to the sick or elderly.]

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY



### The good thief experience Divine Mercy

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you. Today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)

### Three conditions and this man received eternal life.

- A) He communed directly with Christ as we do in the Blessed Sacrament. Each time we receive the Eucharist, we commune with our Savior.
- B) He was repentant. He was sorry for his sins (and chances are he probably was a thief and a murderer.)
- C) He put trust in the Lord and looked upon his wounds. This man was probably alive to see the blood and water come from the side of Our Lord which we see in the Divine Mercy image. Are you starting to understand this parallel between the criminal and us and the Feast of Mercy?

### What are the conditions of Plenary indulgence for the Feast of Mercy?

1) Confession. Repent of all sins a total conversion of heart to be truly sorry for our sins. To have our wounds healed by Our Lord hidden by the priest in the confessional (during Lent or the Feast of Mercy) with expecting to receive the gift of Divine Mercy Sunday.

2) Receiving the Eucharist on the Feast of Mercy. Knowing He is truly present body, soul, and divinity. Knowing He is our God, just like the good thief on the cross knew it. Prayer for the intentions of our Pope a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!")

### What is Our Lord's promise Our Lord Speaks:

"Whoever approaches the fountain of life (Holy Communion) on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699)

### Why are some priests ignoring the Feast of Mercy?

To some priests it's just another devotional, but we are invited to take part in the prayers and devotions by our Lord. The Sacraments are the key and that's what Our Lord demands of us to receive these graces. Communion, Confession, and Trust.

### Would Our Lord give us and the priest an impossible task?

No. He wants the Feast of Mercy to be as easy as the good thief on the cross. This idea that you have to go to confession the same day or eight days before is an impossible task. With our shortage of priests, Our Lord would not demand this the same day. You have all of Lent to go to Confession, but remember, on the day of

the Feast you must be in the state of grace. If not, then go to Confession on the Feast of Mercy. I invite all priests to be open to having confessions on the Feast of Mercy. (Receiving Communion is a must).

### Our Lord Speaks:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. 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 souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to Confession, and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened." (Diary 699)

Let us remember the chaplet, the Novena, The Image, is secondary to receive the graces from Divine Mercy. The two conditions are Confession and Communion. But our Lord invites us to do more and his church recognizes this.

### 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 yourself from it... Even the strongest faith is of no avail without works." (Diary 742).

Yes The Feast of Mercy is a total cleansing, but once the heart is healed and we take on a new life with Christ, we show Christ our love by works of mercy and charity for our neighbors.



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## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**7. TO BURY THE DEAD.** It is an act of love to show respect for the bodies of the dead, since during life, they were temples of the Holy Spirit and received the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. [Examples: Going to funerals and wakes. Treating cemeteries with respect. Cutting the grass on a grave. Putting flowers on it.]

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

**Our Lord invites us to do more**

**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)

But He only says in the Diary, insert 699, that Confession and Communion are the only requirements to receive complete forgiveness of sins and punishment, but are Lord invites us to do more.

**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)

**Christ wants us to be merciful on sinners.**

We put all these conditions on these sinners. We make it so hard for sinners to come back to God. We say you have to pray this many prayers, you have to go feed the poor or God doesn't like you. You have to read Scripture. You have to be charismatic or have the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We, as members of Christ's church, are pushing sinners away from Christ. What did the prodigal son have to do to be in God's friendship again? “Tears of repentance.” He took his father's money. He partied and probably slept around. He was a hardened sinner and what conditions did he have to do to receive eternal life? Repent of all sins and commune with our Lord. All the sacramentals and devotionals are secondary. It's Communion and Confession, a conversion of heart that is the key. The sacramentals and devotionals should lead us to these two great sacraments.



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**1. TO ADMONISH THE SINNER.** It is an act of love to try to make another realize how bad sin is. This might be done by trying to keep him out of sin or an occasion of sin, or by trying to get him to confession. In cases where we think it might make him worse, we do not correct him directly. We can let him know indirectly, especially by our example, that we do not approve of his actions.

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

### Our Lord Speaks:

“Whoever approaches the fountain of life (Holy Communion) on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.” (Diary 300)

### 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?

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



Christ is always present in the sacraments no matter 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

Signs instituted by Christ that give the grace they signify. Sacraments produce grace, (Gods life).

#### What is a Devotion?

Readiness and willingness to dedicate oneself to the service of God, an abandonment to God in prayer and openness to His call.

If I was to plan a trip to Florida, would I walk or would I drive a car? Well, the car is the devotional (like the rosary, the stations of the cross, the image of Divine Mercy, or the Sacred Heart Image.) In my journey towards Our Lord on my Heavenly trip, I found it much easier to have a jet plane on my trip and that is a devotion to the Blessed Mother. Boy

asking mama to pray for me and to help me to understand Our Lord and scripture, I seem to be falling more and more in love with Our Lord. Especially Mass and Adoration. This is what a devotion and a sacramental should do. It should start to transform your heart into the heart of Christ. So, in your journey to Florida, which really is heaven, don't make it so hard on yourself. Our Lord gave us a church and its riches to help us, so why not use them?

**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 sinners, drunks, active homosexuals, lesbians, murders, adulterers, child molesters, and thieves and so forth. All are wounded. Let's stop judging them and let's pray and lead them home.

#### Definition of indulgence

A favor or privilege, a remission of punishment still due for a sin after the guilt has been forgiven.

#### Definition of Remission

Release from a debt, forgiveness or pardon, as of sins.

#### Definition of Plenary

Full, complete, attendance by all members.

#### Church given power by Christ to bind and loose

MT 16:19- Give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

LK 10:16- Power to speak with Christ's voice. MT 18:18- Power to legislate.

MT 28:18-20- Jesus delegates all power to Apostles.

The church is Christ's body Col 1:18- He is the head of the body, the church.



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**2. TO INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT.** It is an act of love to help others in one way or another to learn the truths they need to know to save their souls.

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY



### Definition of Divine

(Divus, a god) of, like or from God or a god, devoted to God. Religious, supremely great, good.

### Definition of Mercy

Kind or compassionate behavior shown to an enemy offender, etc., who is in one's power. Compassion or kindness towards others, especially those in distress. The power to show clemency or forgiveness.

### So, what is Divine Mercy?

God showing clemency, compassion, forgiveness to those who have left him. Those who have forgotten God may not know it but they are in God's power. By sin we reject God. We refuse his friendship, but God is always offering his Divine Mercy. A world which is so sinful, is this a fairy tale, this feast of mercy? No, it's Divine Mercy in action.

**It hurts Our Lord if we do not believe in His true presence in the Eucharist** **Holy Communion is a must to Divine Mercy Sunday**

### 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 and anxiety and not being reconciled with our neighbor is the three things that block a fervent reception of the Eucharist and our woundedness can be healed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The very gospel that day which is read is (John 20: 19-31) where Christ institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the Apostles 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).

Receiving the Eucharist is receiving Christ Himself and the whole Trinity. Remember, He is offering extra special graces on this day. A floodgate of graces.

**On that day priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy**

The Holy Father emphasized this very point in his homily at St. Faustina's canonization when he established Mercy Sunday for the whole world. The responsorial psalm 118, is a hymn to God's mercy and in the gospel read, we see in John 20: 19-31 the institution of Confession is given to the Apostles, the great act of Divine Mercy. We also see in the same gospel Jesus showing His merciful wounds just like the Image of Divine Mercy to St. Thomas. St. Thomas said after Our Lord showed him His wounds, "My Lord and My God."



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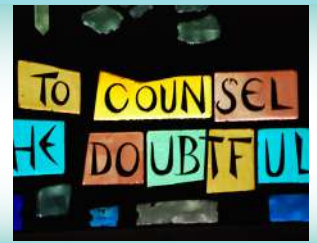
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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**3. TO COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL.** It is an act of love to help others to be certain about what they should do to love and serve God. Many souls could be saved if Catholics would make the effort to speak the truth in love to their neighbors.

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

### The image of Divine Mercy

This was 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 exact room on Holy Thursday that He instituted the Eucharist.

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

#### Our Lord Speaks:

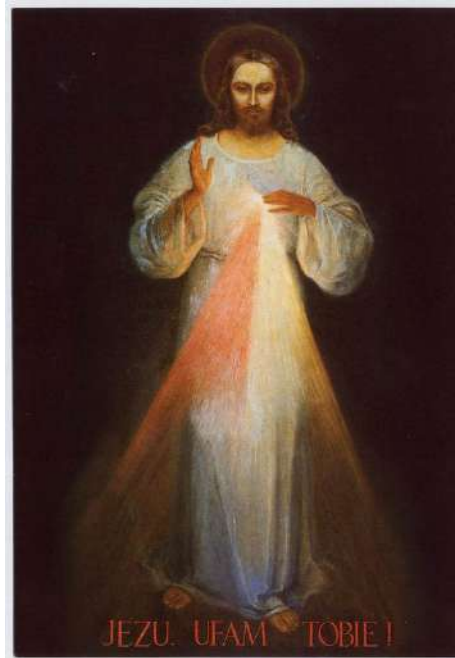
"I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the First Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it" (Diary 341). Our risen Savior has pale and red rays streaming from His side. These rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from His side while 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 Eucharist, the blood and life of the soul. 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 (Sacraments). 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).

### 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).

(Continued at page 14)



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**4. TO COMFORT THE SORROWFUL.** It is an act of love to help another person in any kind of sorrow, and to refrain from doing anything that would unnecessarily cause another person more sorrow.

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# APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY DECREE: INDULGENCES ATTACHED TO DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF DIVINE MERCY

### Apostolic Penitentiary Decree

"O God, your mercy knows no bounds and the treasure of your goodness is infinite..." (Prayer after the "Te Deum" Hymn) and "O God, you reveal your almighty power above all by showing mercy and forgiveness..." (Prayer for the 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time), in these prayers Holy Mother Church humbly and faithfully sings of Divine Mercy. Indeed, God's great patience with the human race in general and with each individual person shines out in a special way when sins and moral failures are forgiven by Almighty God Himself and the guilty are readmitted in a father like way to his friendship, which they deservedly lost.

### Duty of honoring Divine Mercy

The faithful with deep spiritual affection are drawn to commemorate the mysteries of divine pardon and to celebrate them devoutly. They clearly understand the supreme benefit, indeed **the duty, that the People of God have to praise Divine Mercy with special prayers and, at the same time, they realize that by gratefully performing the works required and satisfying the necessary conditions**, they can obtain spiritual benefits that derive from the Treasury of the Church. "The paschal mystery is the culmination of this revealing and effecting of mercy, which is able to justify man, to restore justice in the sense of that salvific order which God willed from the beginning in man, and through man, in the world" (Encyclical Letter ".../.../.../

holy father/john paul ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\_m-ii\_enc\_30111980\_dives-in-misericordia\_en.html".n.7).

It is God's Mercy that grants supernatural sorrow and resolution to amend

Indeed, Divine Mercy knows how to pardon even the most serious sins, and in doing so it moves the faithful to perceive a supernatural, not merely psychological, sorrow for their sins so that ever with the help of divine grace, they may make a firm resolution not to sin any more. Such spiritual dispositions undeniably follow upon the forgiveness of mortal sin when the faithful fruitfully receive the sacrament of Penance or repent of their sin with an act of perfect charity and perfect contrition with the resolution to receive the Sacrament of Penance as soon as they can. Indeed, Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us in the parable of the Prodigal Son that the sinner must confess his misery to God saying: "Father I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (Lk 15,18-19), realizing that this is a work of God, "for [he] was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found" (Lk 15,32).

### Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

And so with provident pastoral sensitivity and in order to impress deeply on the souls of the faithful these precepts and teachings of the Christian faith, the Supreme Pontiff, John Paul II, moved by the consideration of the Father of Mercy, has willed that the Second Sunday of Easter be dedicated to



recalling with special devotion these gifts of grace and gave this Sunday the name, "Divine Mercy Sunday" (Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Decree *Misericors et miserator*, 5 May 2000).

The Gospel of the Second Sunday of Easter narrates the wonderful things Christ the Lord accomplished on the day of the Resurrection during his first public appearance: "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you'. When he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad to see the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you'. And then he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained"' (Jn 20,19-23).



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**5. TO BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY.** It is an act of love to accept the consequences of another's thoughtlessness or carelessness and to suffer inconveniences which another should bear. This is the example given to us by Jesus who suffered greatly for us all when he was innocent.

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# APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY DECREE: INDULGENCES ATTACHED TO DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF DIVINE MERCY

### Plenary Indulgence

To ensure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence, as will be explained below, so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor, and after they have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters. Pardon of others who sin against us

Thus the faithful will more closely conform to the spirit of the Gospel, receiving in their hearts the renewal that the Second Vatican Council explained and introduced: "Mindful of the words of the Lord: 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (Jn 13,35), Christians can yearn for nothing more ardently than to serve the men of this age with an ever growing generosity and success.... It is the Father's will that we should recognize Christ our brother in the persons of all men and love them with an effective love, in word and in deed (Pastoral Constitution, ".../.../.../ archive/ hist councils/ii vatican council/ documents/vat-ii cons 19651207 caudium-et-spes en.html". n. 93).

### Three conditions for the plenary indulgence

And so the Supreme Pontiff, motivated by an ardent desire to foster in Christians this devotion to Divine Mercy as much as possible in the hope

of offering great spiritual fruit to the faithful, in the Audience granted on 13 June 2002, to those Responsible for the Apostolic Penitentiary, granted the following Indulgences:

A plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!));

A partial indulgence, granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus a legitimately approved invocation.

### For those who cannot go to church or the seriously ill

In addition, sailors working on the vast expanse of the sea; the countless brothers and sisters, whom the disasters of war, political events, local violence and other such causes have been driven out of their homeland; the sick and those who nurse them, and all who for a just cause cannot leave their homes or who carry out an activity for the community which cannot be postponed, may obtain a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday, if totally detesting any sin, as has



been said before, and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual conditions, will recite the Our Father and the Creed before a devout image of Our Merciful Lord Jesus and, in addition, pray a devout invocation to the Merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you).

If it is impossible that people do even this, on the same day they may obtain the Plenary Indulgence if with a spiritual intention they are united with those carrying out the prescribed practice for obtaining the Indulgence in the usual way and offer to the Merciful Lord a prayer and the sufferings of their illness and the difficulties of their lives, with the resolution to accomplish as soon as possible the three conditions prescribed to obtain the plenary indulgence.

Duty of priests: inform parishioners, hear confessions, lead prayers

Priests who exercise pastoral ministry, especially parish priests, should info



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**6. TO FORGIVE ALL INJURIES.** It is an act of deep love to forgive all those who have injured us in any way, even deliberately and with malice. Christ demands that His followers have great love and forgiveness for one another and even for our enemies in imitation of His own forgiveness of us and of His enemies as He hung on the cross. In His almighty wisdom, God knows that failing to forgive causes further injury to the person originally injured.

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

### The Chaplet and the image of Divine Mercy

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

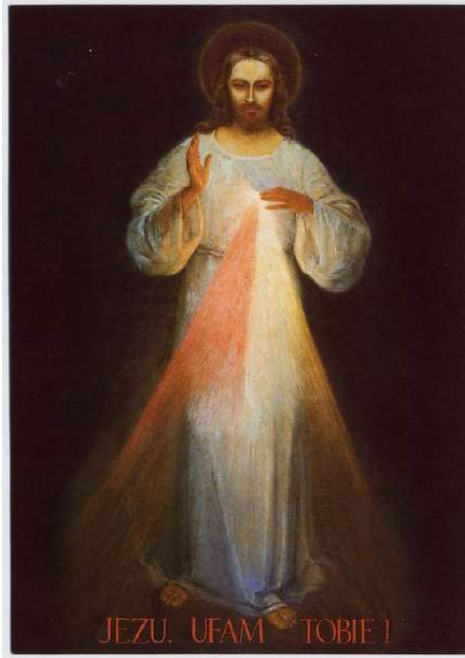
O' My Creator and Lord, I feel that I am going to remove the veil of heaven so that earth will not doubt your goodness (words from Faustina Diary 483).

Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you (1541)... Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death (Diary 687)... When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just judge, but as the merciful Savior (Diary 1541)... Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy (Diary 687)... Through the chaplet, you will obtain everything. If what you ask for is compatible with My will (Diary 1731).

### At what time should I pray the chaplet?

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

Chaplet.



### The three o'clock hour is very important to pray the chaplet

This 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 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.

### Our Lord Speaks:

"Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if they were to recite this chaplet only once, they would receive grace from My Infinite Mercy." (Diary 1541)

### 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.

### When we sin, we don't change His love

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).



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## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**7. TO PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.** Sharing in the communion of saints demands that we pray for everyone. This is a great means of spreading the fires of love to others, whether in this world or in purgatory. Prayers for the dead at a cemetery carry special graces.

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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

**When we sin we don't change his love for us**

**When we sin, we stop His blessings**

God never stops blessing when we sin. We refuse His blessings. God is always merciful. We just become so dark that we no longer let Him in. But, this does not change God. He is always loving us and offering the blessing. It is like there is a dark cloud around us and until we confess these sins, this dark cloud of sin keeps Our Lord out of our life.

**Do you know 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 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 now 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 can decide to nestle close to the merciful heart of Jesus. (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 me and my 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.

(John 20: 22-23) "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."

When Jesus died on the cross, he forgave all our sins. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ and we are white as snow. We accept His mercy and all of our sins are His, but through life we fail and we sin again and again. So, we become doubting souls and we doubt His merciful cross. We doubt that He took our sins away so his representatives confirm this to us in the confessional and 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 so these graces from His cross are being blasted back and forth in time. In the confessional you may see the priest, but it is actual 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 so we must be with Jesus so we can hear His words, "Your sins are forgiven," and this 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).

Our Lord showed the importance of the confessional that he made it necessary for obtaining His promise of complete forgiveness of sins and punishment for observing the Feast of Mercy.



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# THE FEAST OF MERCY

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

Jesus dines with the Pharisee and a sinful woman decides to enter the house of the Pharisee to see Jesus, bringing ointment. 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 mad 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.

## What if the Confessor makes light of little things (venial sins)?

There is nothing little in the spiritual life. Sometimes a seemingly insignificant thing will disclose a matter of great consequence and will be for the confessor, a beam of light, which helps him to get to know the soul. (diary 112)

If the confessor makes light of venial sins, the person can not increase in holiness. Although the soul knows that it is only sin in the strict sense of the term, which pertains to the Sacrament of Penance, yet these petty things are of great importance to a soul, which is tending to sanc



## Open yourself fully in the Confessional

This comes on the 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

A disobedient soul will win no victory. God lavishes graces on the obedient soul in the confessional even if the priest gives you advice that you think is wrong. If you are obedient, God will lavish graces on you and work with the priest's advice so it will better your soul. It is pride that stops obedience. What was Satan's fall? Disobedience. Satan cannot be obedient. (diary 939)

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? Confession weekly, if not daily.

## 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. When you go to Confession, you should go and experience that through the ministry of the priest, united in the one priesthood of Christ, I'm going to encounter the three divine persons of the Trinity and experience their love.

## 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, than He saw your future sins and you drove the nails into His pure body. In the confession, you must stir up your heart and in the confessional with great trust, 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.



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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

### 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).

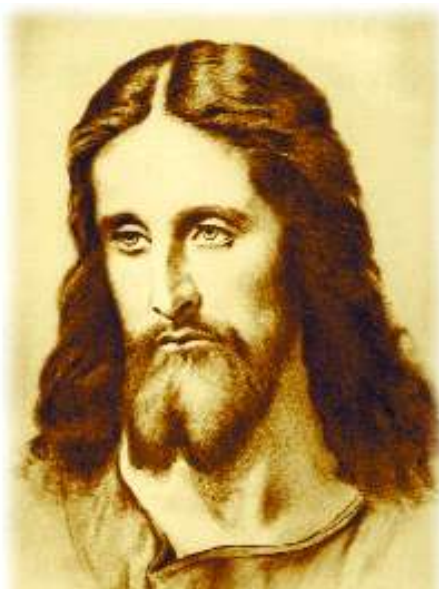
He doesn't say, go to Medjugorje or Lourdes, or Fatima, but to the confessional. How many of you have been to Medjugorje? What's the key focus at Medjugorje? "The Sacraments." The confessionals are packed with people. This is the miracle of Medjugorje. Conversion takes place in the confessional.

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

We are wounded. We need healed. 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



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

When the priest absolves you of your sin, it is Christ in the priest.

### 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." The priest veils Christ. Christ, Himself, is absolving 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)**

### 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 yourself from it... Even the strongest faith is of no avail without works" (Diary 742).

The church teaches us 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

Let us remember God has a vocation for each of us. If you are a father or mother, do your works of mercy as a family. Do not try to save other souls while you are losing the battle at home. For us who are busy with our vocation as a family, spiritual works of mercy are always in our grasp.



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## THE FEAST OF MERCY

### Trust in Mercy

#### 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).

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 as He is the great doctor. Study scripture as a family. Study your Catechism.

#### Trust is the Essence of the Message of Mercy

A child can teach us much about trust. A baby sits in the crib. It cannot work, it cannot feed itself. The baby has no control of bodily functions, but he looks into his mother’s eyes with trust and knows she will take care of him. This is trust. Our Divine Savior makes it clear that the fountain is His heart, the water is His mercy, and the vessel is trust.

#### Our Lord Speaks:

“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” (Diary 1485)... And what is this fountain? It is the Sacraments.

#### Our Lord Speaks:

“On the cross, the fountain of my mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls - no one have I excluded”

(Diary 1182)... “I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy (Sacraments).” That vessel is this Image with the signature, “Jesus, I Trust in You” (Diary 327).



Trust involves a turning back to God. A real conversion of our whole lives to God, repenting of sins and forgiving others. Trust is a living faith. With trust, Divine Mercy will explode in your life.

#### If sins are forgiven in the Confessional, why do we go to Purgatory?

No soul can enter Heaven until it has been purged of all self-will and exists only for God; that is to say, until it is sanctified. Probably for most persons who are saved, a great part of this purging has to be done in Purgatory, because the soul did not do it on earth. When we reject the will of God for our own will, then this must be purged if we totally reject God’s will completely for our own, God would be forced to reject us for all eternity (damnation). Our state would then be unchangeable, fixed on self and hatred for God.

Never confuse the will of the majority with the will of God. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then, you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is (Romans 12:2)

#### You Must Do Your Penance

God knows you are sorry for your sins but now you must do your penance, a penance that will help those you hurt, and a penance that will help you. Penance does not mean to tear your clothes and cover yourself in ashes, walking around showing the world you suffer. Penance is coming to understand what you need to do to overcome your weaknesses and fears, that led you into sin. Penance is saying sorry to God from your heart. Penance is trying your hardest to make up for the wrongs you have done, and penance is accepting that you will make mistakes, and that the strength you need to overcome them is found in God. Remember, God is the only answer and God longs to forgive you. Once you accept God’s forgiveness.

Some believe that taking the life of an unborn child that came from a few minutes of pleasure is a penance for all involved. If you had taken this path, look at the pain it would have caused your family and friends. They would be suffering because of your sins, especially anyone who is involved with the taking of the life of the unborn. Do you see how evil works? Through what appears to be a solution to a problem, a solution that is no answer at all, it is only a millstone that hangs around that neck of all of those involved throughout their whole lives. Whatever separates us from full union with God will be purged either on earth or in purgatory.



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## **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.



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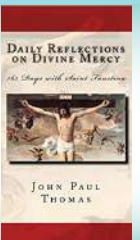
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# I DEMAND FROM YOU DEEDS OF MERCY

## 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.



them, comfort can be a sweet 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, a hug or handshake, 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.

## 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, and 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.

## Do your 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 is 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



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## I DEMAND FROM YOU DEEDS OF MERCY



### Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish sinners. To correct someone can be as hard to give as to receive. 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. We must especially protect our children.

2. Instruct the uninformed. Not everyone can be a school teacher or priest, or religious, but we can remind our family of basic morality, helping children with their homework, starting a prayergroup. We are all called to be a priestly people 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 in a christian approach.

4. Comfort the sorrowful. Death, divorce, grave illness, unemployment, family problems, mental distress, 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.

5. Bear wrongs patiently. Complaints of elderly, freeway traffic, drudgery of a job, those who never say a kind work,

nagging people who never say a kind word. Strive for patients; maintain patience with those who never say a kind word. 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; dwelling on a wrong only increases its size, breeding hatred will only breed to hatred of some self. 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. To fast for a loved one is a great prayer of sacrifice.



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## 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."

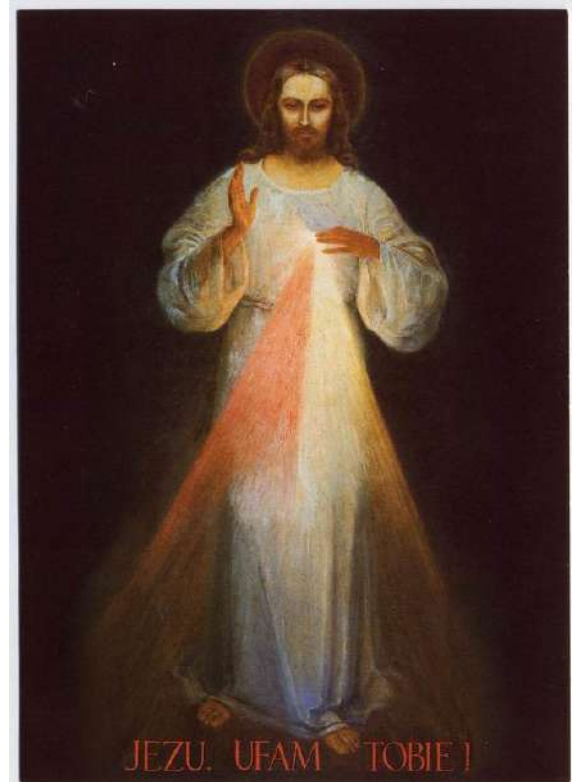
**Day Six :** "Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls of little children, and immerse them in My Mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly angels, who will keep vigils at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of 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 know the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of 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."



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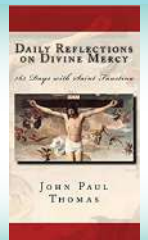
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## OBEDIENCE IS A DIFFICULT TASK



Although obedience is precious because it places our whole life in God's will, nevertheless, in practice it has its difficulties and these arise because the command itself does not come directly from God, but through His representatives, so we fail to see God in our superiors and to recognize His authority in them. For example, this happens a lot in the religious life if you have a superior who was a former student with you or even a former pupil who is younger and less experienced. You could be easily tempted to have insufficient respect for his authority and his command. This also goes for the working world. If you believe you are more qualified than your boss, and you really are, then your chances of obedience to him would be slim to none. A life of obedience would then be especially difficult.

It is hard for us to obey. We do not have recourse to the superior with childlike trust, and what is worst is that we

justify this attitude towards our superior to ourselves. **We forget that no matter who the superior is, he is invested with authority from God.** Authority placed on him solely because he has been called to this office. Now, if your superior was directing you against good morals and faith to be obedient to him, this would be offensive to God. St. John of the Cross: "Never look upon your superior, whoever he may be, with less regard than upon God Himself. If we do not have this supernatural spirit which makes us see God in the person of our superior, our obedience cannot be supernatural. I obey because my superior represents God, my superior, speaks to me in His name; my superior is another Christ to me.

We should not obey through the motive of human confidence in the superior because he may be prideful, prudent, arrogant, boastful, or because we like him or he understands us. We must obey only because God wills whatever our superior commands. The one exception as I said before, is an order of involving sin, which of course God cannot want, or a command against our Constitution which we have to embrace and respect.

### What stops us from obedience?

Our pride. We feel we know better, or we know more, or I have put more time in this than him. Let's say all this is true. God still willed this man to be in charge of you and to be obedient will help you in destroying the pride in you and helping you to become a child of God. This will help you to more and more understand faith, childlike faith, which is giving your will over to God's will and freeing you.

Faith teaches us that God controls and rules everything and that no human will can escape His divine dominion.

Look at the world. All sin comes from the pride of disobedience.

### Was Jesus obedient?

Jesus lived for thirty years subject in all things to Mary and Joseph, recognizing His Father's authority in theirs. (Luke 2, Verse 51) He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Jesus expressed his dependence of His heavenly Father, by submitting himself to creatures who in natural order had authority over Him as man (Phil. 2, 8), obedient even unto death on the cross. **Obedience, the greatest form of charity** Nothing is dearer to man than the freedom of his own will. This is what makes him master over others. To be obedient is in direct conflict with man's will, but it is a direct link to God's will. Because of this freedom of his own will, he can use and enjoy the pleasures of this world without losing one bit of his self-centered pride. He becomes a master of his own acts.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." (Mt. 16, 24)

"I came down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me." (Jn. 6, 38)

"Father...not My will, but thine be done." (Lk. 22, 42)

Definition of Obedience: Renouncing freedom of your own will by which you are master of yourself. To renounce yourself.

I challenge all who read this to be obedient to your superior. Wives be obedient to your husbands. Husbands reflect God to your wives to help them be

obedient. Priests be obedient to your Bishops. Bishops be obedient to the Pope. Workers be obedient to your bosses. Laity be obedient to your Bishops. Husbands again I say, especially to you who read this, if you ask your wife to be obedient, you must at all times reflect God to your family. Let's not forget to always be obedient to God's laws and His church.

## THE DIVINE MERCY MESSENGER "Jesus, I trust in You"

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You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Mk 12:30

# BLESS MY FAMILY BLESS MY CHURCH

St. Michael Center for the Blessed Virgin Mary



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St. Michael the Archangel defend us in the day of battle!



## OUR YOUTH ARE BOMBARDED WITH SEX

Our youth and young adults are bombarded with all kinds of impure sleazy messages about sex. Rock music pushes free sex, sex filled TV programs. Two clicks of a mouse and welcome to porno world. College and high school students face so much temptation, this includes all walks of life from young to old, and we live in a culture of sex, sex, and sex. Many college students live in co-ed dorms away from parents and their parish church. Health centers pushing birth control down these college students from all angles. Let us not forget the four-keg party's, bars up and down the campus strip. You will find abortion clinics available on most major campuses. Imagine all the lives

that will be led astray and all the babies who will be killed unless we as family members help to prepare our youth for what lies ahead. In good consciences can we as loving parents, Godparents, uncles, cousins, grandparents stand by idle and watch our youth be destroyed by satan. We must promote the sanctity of life as a nation as a people, lovemaking must be taught to be saved for marriage, a union that can only be broken by death. When our youth slip and fall as we ourselves often do, mercy must be shown and given' God's divine mercy'.

**We at Life Foundation are inviting you**

Share with our blessed mother the call to life. She is inviting you and your family members into the folds of her mantle, holding us close and praying to her Son not to punish us for the sins against God and man this sin called abortion. Learn about our Lords Divine Mercy, come to a better understanding of the feast of mercy. Share in our Lords passion, look into His wounded and tortured faced and see the love He offered to you and your loved ones so you would be able to share everlasting life with Him in heaven. We as a nation have we forgotten the value of suffering, without suffering there would be no compassion.

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