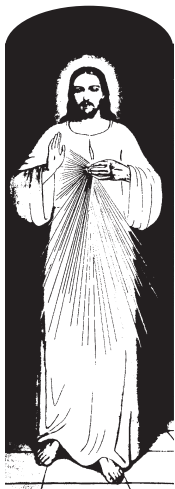


**IN THE RAYS
OF MERCY**



**IN THE RAYS
OF MERCY**

Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. (*Diary 699*)



Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy. (*Diary 300*)

You will prepare the world for My final coming (*Diary 429*)

IN THE RAYS OF MERCY

*To Commemorate 100 Anniversary of the Birth
of Saint John Paul II the Great (May 18, 1920 -2020)*

and

*15 Anniversary of the Divine Mercy Congress
at Christ the King in Los Angeles*

THE LAY INSTITUTE OF DIVINE MERCY
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Volume XI

LIBRARY OF THE LAY INSTITUTE OF DIVINE MERCY

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What is the meaning of the visitation of the image of Merciful Jesus to our families and our homes?

The Pilgrim Image of Merciful Jesus in our homes should be a sacred event, a spiritual transformation of the whole family and its confession of faith. This is the time not only of opening the doors of the house to Jesus, but also the hearts of the Family members.

Receiving Merciful Jesus who comes in this image strengthens our Faith and Love.

At the visitation time, Jesus should become not only a guest but also the Master of our homes and family. The presence of the image is the time to praise God's Mercy and make a covenant with Him forever. By faith, Jesus gives the richness of his graces and comes to the praying family, like to the disciples in the Upper Room, with His gift of peace and unity.

The family is the domestic church, the basic cell of church and society. The future of the Church and the nation depends on the family. Jesus' visitation of families is an opportunity for us to fully open ourselves to the healing power of God's Mercy.

Since 2006 the Pilgrim Image of Merciful Jesus at Christ the King has been visiting the Parishioners' homes. Over 1000 families from our neighborhood had taken the Image home.

Many people had the opportunity to pray and received God's Mercy by having the Image of Merciful Jesus in their Homes. Jesus said to Saint Faustina "I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world" (*Diary* 47)

We offer you this small prayer book with the words of Saint Faustina and we hope that the Divine Mercy Devotion becomes your way of life.

Fr. Juan Ochoa

On August 17 in 2002 in the Shrine
of Divine Mercy
in Krakow Lagiewniki (Poland)
Saint Pope JOHN PAUL II solemnly entrusted the
destiny of the world to the Divine Mercy

ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT

God, merciful Father,
in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed
your love
and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the
Comforter,
We entrust to you today the destiny of the world
and of every man and woman.

Bend down to us sinners,
heal our weakness,
conquer all evil,
and grant that all the peoples of the earth
may experience your mercy.
In You, the Triune God,
may they ever find the source of hope.

Eternal Father,
by the Passion and Resurrection of your Son,
have mercy on us and upon the whole world!

Amen.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR MERCY

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by
forgiveness and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be
clothed in weakness

in order that they may feel compassion for
those in ignorance and error:

let everyone who approaches them feel sought
after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of
us with its anointing,

so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of
grace from the Lord,

and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary,
Mother of Mercy,

you who live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.



THE DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY

Jesus told Sister Faustina: “Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy” (*Diary* 132). Through the work of the Polish religious, this message has become linked for ever to the 20th century, the last of the second millennium and the bridge to the third. It is not a new message but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time.

Saint John Paul II, Homily, Sunday, April 30, 2000



The mercy of the One Triune God is the object of the Devotion, which the Lord Jesus conveyed by Sister Faustina. What is meant in here is an attribute of God – the Creator and Redeemer – which is His love, goodness and compassion for all misery of human beings. When we venerate an attribute of God, we worship Him Himself, because God is simple, which means that God is everything that is in Him. So – writes Fr. I. Różycki – “God is not only wise but He is Wisdom; He is not only omnipotent but He is Omnipotence; He does not only reveal His providence to the world, but He is Providence; He does not only love us but He is Love; He is not only merciful but He is Mercy. Therefore, Wisdom, Providence, Omnipotence, Love and Mercy, which are what God is, have the right to be venerated and worshipped by us”.

Divine Mercy is the mercy of God One in the Holy Trinity. The Person preferred in this devotion is Jesus Christ, for it is to Him that all the new forms of devotion of the Divine Mercy refer to.

This special place accorded Jesus in the devotion to the Divine Mercy has its profound justification in the following words from the Gospel: “I am the Way and the Truth, and Life; nobody can come to the Father except through Me” (J 14:6).

The devotion to the Divine Mercy has quite aptly been called the devotion to the Merciful Jesus. From the aspect of subject-matter, both names denote the subject-matter of this devotion.

The Divine Mercy which we worship in this devotion is inexhaustible, greater than the sins of the entire world. “The greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy,” Jesus told Sister Faustina (*Diary* 1182).

Saint John Paul II often uses the term “merciful love”. In the encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* he wrote that “mercy is an indispensable dimension of love; it is as it were love’s second name“(DM 7). According to John Paul II, mercy is the external shape of the love of God to man who is burdened with the weight of human weakness. “Mercy described as merciful love has all the characteristics of love in the broadest sense. It embraces everything which belongs to our earthly loves; fatherly, motherly, brotherly, love of one’s spouse, love between friends and colleagues; love, which is kind, patient, compassionate, generous, helpful, forgiving and faithful. Merciful love is primarily focused on the most fundamental human value which constitutes the dignity of his humanity, and this dignity it tries to save, purify and lift, delivering it as it were from every form of wrong” (cf. sr. K. M. Kasperkiewicz).

THE ESSENCE OF THE DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY

Trust

The essence of this devotion is an attitude of trust in God, which entails not only the virtue of hope, but also faith, humility, perseverance and contrition. So essential to the nature of this devotion is a trusting attitude that without a spirit of trust there is no devotion to the Divine Mercy at all, for the first and basic expression of worship of the Divine Mercy is an act of trust. An attitude of trust in the Divine Mercy itself not only guarantees the trusting person eternal salvation, but also gives Him the temporal goods He is in need.

“Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul,” said Jesus to Sister Faustina (*Diary* 1777).

“Let [souls] approach this sea of mercy with great trust. Sinners will attain justification, and the just will be confirmed in good. Whoever places his trust in My mercy will be filled with My divine peace at the hour of death” (*Diary* 1520).

“I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy” (*Diary* 687).

In Sister Faustina’s *Diary* there are at least 34 instances when Jesus calls us to have a spirit of trust; and 9 occasions when He talks about trust as the necessary condition for graces to be granted,

along with the temporal benefits associated with the practice of this devotion.

Thus no part of the devotion; neither veneration of the image nor recitation of the chaplet will bring the expected results unless it is combined with genuine trustfulness, since to worship God's mercy means to turn to God in an act of trust.

Trust is the essential part of this devotion, and it is also the condition for the granting of God's gifts.

Mercy

The second essential part of the devotion is an active love of one's neighbor, in other words, the practice of mercy towards one's neighbors. Jesus' requirement here means the incorporation of the Gospel's Beatitude in this devotion: "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7).

Jesus told Sister Faustina: My daughter, if I demand through you that people revere My mercy, you should be the first to distinguish yourself by this confidence in My mercy. 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 (*Diary* 742).

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 reverence to My mercy (*Diary* 742).

The condition that acts of mercy must be practiced means that the devotion to the Divine Mercy as transmitted to us from Jesus through Sister Faustina cannot be merely a pious custom, but a deeply experienced form of the Christian spiritual life.

THE DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY in the forms handed down by Sister Faustina

The theological analysis of the *Diary* of Sister Faustina shows that her mission was:

- To remind man of the well-known truth from the Scripture about God's merciful love for every human being,
- To transmit new forms of the worship of the Divine Mercy to plead for the graces needed by the whole world,
- To inspire a religious renewal in the spirit of this devotion that is in the New Testament spirit of trust in God and mercy towards one's neighbors.

Forms of Devotion to the Divine Mercy

In describing the forms of devotion to the Divine Mercy, we can enumerate the following:

- The image of the Merciful Jesus;
- The feast of Divine Mercy;
- The chaplet to the Divine Mercy;
- The hour of Mercy;
- The propagation of the worship of Mercy

The image of the Merciful Jesus

The image of the Merciful Jesus has been one of the most well-known images of the crucified and risen Christ in the history of the Church and in the contemporary world. This is an unusual Image not only because of the fact that it is the most popular one, but above all, because the Lord Jesus Himself is its coauthor. On February 22, 1931, in a cell of the convent of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Płock, He appeared to Sister Faustina – she saw Him just as He is represented in the image and He commanded her to paint His image according to the vision. She wrote about this in her *Diary*: *In the evening, when I was in my cell I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale (...)* After a while, Jesus said to me: *Paint an image according to the pattern you*

see: with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel and [then] throughout the world (Diary 47).

Thus, the image was painted because Jesus Himself had desired that. The image is both a sign and a visual synthesis of the whole Divine Mercy message, which He conveyed by Sister Faustina: on the one hand it reminds us of the mystery of God's merciful love for man revealed in the Holy Scriptures, it exhorts us to form the Christian attitude of trust towards Him and mercy towards neighbor and, on the other hand, it is a vessel for drawing graces to which He attached many promises. A general promise of all possible graces and rewards in this world (provided that they are in accordance with God's will) as well as specific promises: the grace of eternal salvation, great progress on the path of Christian perfection and the grace of peaceful death – these are the promises Jesus attached to a prayer said in front of the image on condition that it is said with trust and that it is conjoined to deeds of mercy towards neighbor.

In 1934 the first image of the Divine Mercy was painted under Fr. Michael Sopocko's request and Sister Faustina's direction in the studio of a Vilnius' artist, Eugeniusz Kazimirowski. Since that time many different versions of the image of the Merciful Christ according to Sister Faustina's vision have been painted. They can be found in churches and chapels all over the world. "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to

keep coming for graces to the fountain of Mercy,” (Diary 327).

There are three promises for which Jesus gave very clear definitions:

- “I promise that the soul that venerates this image will not perish” (Diary 48) – in other words, Jesus gave a promise of eternal salvation.
- “I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death” (Diary 48) – this means the enemies of salvation, and the making of considerable progress on the road to Christian perfection.
- “especially at the hour of death I Myself shall defend it as My own glory” (Diary 47-48) – this is the promise of the grace of a happy death.

The Feast of Mercy

The Feast of Mercy is celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter that is on the Second Sunday of Easter, which is called the Divine Mercy Sunday today. In 1995, at the request of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Saint John Paul II instituted the feast in all dioceses in Poland. On the day of Sister Faustina’s canonization, April 30, 2000, the Pope instituted the feast for the whole Church.

The institution of the feast was inspired by a desire of Jesus which was conveyed by Sister Faustina. The Lord Jesus told her: *I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy* (Diary 299). *I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for*

poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. 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).

In many revelations the Lord Jesus did not only define the place of the feast in the liturgical calendar of the Church but also the reason for its institution, the way it should be prepared, celebrated, and He also spoke about the great promises. The greatest of them is the grace of *complete forgiveness of sins and punishment*. It is connected with Holy Communion received on that day, following a good Confession (without any attachment to the smallest sin), in the spirit of the devotion to the Divine Mercy, that is, trusting God and loving neighbor actively. As the Fr. Professor Ignacy Różycki says, it is a grace greater than plenary indulgence. “Plenary indulgence is only a remission of temporal punishment for the sins committed, however, it is never a remission of the sins themselves. Basically, the most special grace is greater than the graces of the 6 sacraments, apart from the sacrament of baptism, since only the sacramental grace of the holy baptism is the forgiveness of all sins and punishment. However, as far as these promises are concerned, Christ associated the remission of sins and punishment

with Holy Communion received during the Feast of Mercy, therefore, regarding this, He raised it to the rank of a “second baptism”. In preparation for this feast we are to recite the novena which consists in saying the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy for 9 days. The novena begins on Good Friday. The Lord Jesus said to Sister Faustina: “The Feast of My Mercy has issued forth from My very depths for the consolation of the whole world” (*Diary* 1517).

“I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will have painted on canvas, be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy” (*Diary* 49).

As far as the manner in which the Feast is to be celebrated, Jesus had two wishes:

- That the image of Mercy be solemnly blessed and given public liturgical veneration on that day;
- That priests tell souls of the great and unfathomable mercy of God (*Diary* 570), thereby encouraging them to assume a spirit of trust

The greatness of this Feast is manifested in the promises:

“Whoever comes to the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment” (*Diary* 300). In these promises, Jesus has attributed the power to remit sins and punishment to Holy Communion received on the Feast of Mercy, **thereby elevating it to the rank of**

a “second baptism”. Obviously Holy Communion must be received on this day not only in a state of grace, but all the other basic conditions of the devotion to the Divine Mercy must be observed.

The graces attached to the Feast is manifested in three ways:

- All people, including those who previously did not practice the devotion to the Divine Mercy, and even sinners who are converted on this day may partake of the graces Jesus has prepared for this Feast;
- Jesus wishes to endow us – that is particular individuals and entire communities – on this day not only with the redemptive graces, but also with temporal benefits;
- All the graces and benefits shall be accessible to all people whomever they are, providing they ask for them in a spirit of great trust.

To observe the Feast of Mercy, we should:

1. ***Celebrate*** the Feast on the First Sunday after Easter;
2. Sincerely ***Repent*** of all our sins;
3. Place our complete ***Trust in Jesus***;
4. Go to ***Confession***, preferably before the Divine Mercy Sunday;
5. Receive ***Holy Communion*** on the day of the Feast;
6. ***Venerate the Image*** of the Merciful Jesus
7. ***Be merciful to others***, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

The Chaplet to the Divine Mercy

This prayer is God's special gift for our times. The Lord Jesus dictated it to Sister Faustina in Vilnius on the 13 and 14th of September, 1935. On Friday, September the 13, in her cell Sister Faustina had a vision of an angel who came to the earth to punish it for its sins. When she saw that sign of divine wrath, she began to implore the angel to hold off for a few moments and the world would do penance. However, when she stood before the majesty of the Holy Trinity, she did not dare to repeat that entreaty. Only when she felt the power of Jesus' grace in her soul did she start to pray – she said the words heard interiorly. In the *Diary* she wrote: "As I was praying in this manner, I saw the Angel's helplessness: he could not carry out the just punishment which was rightly due for sins" (*Diary* 475).

The next day, when she entered the chapel, once again the Lord Jesus told her how the prayer, which we call the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy, should be said. "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).

This formula of the prayer is to be said individually and in community. Father Professor Ignacy Różycki wrote: "Anyone who changes the plural into singular: *our sins* into: *my sins*; *have mercy on us* into: *have mercy on me* when saying the prayer individually – ***changes it against Jesus' will and what he says is not the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy anymore*** because *us* in the prayer denotes the one who says it and all who he prays for especially, whereas ,the whole world' means: *all others, both those who live and those who have died*. In this manner, by demanding that the person saying the Chaplet entreat for *mercy on us* and not *on me*, *Jesus combats egoism in prayer and makes the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy an act of sacrificial love*. In regards to the content of the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy, not only the number must not be altered but also the text should not be changed at all – by adding or removing any word".

The general promise is: "It pleases Me to grant [souls] everything they ask of Me when they say the chaplet" (Diary 1541). "Through the chaplet, Jesus said, you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will" (Diary 1731).

The two specific promises concern the hour of death:

- "Whoever recites [the chaplet] will receive great mercy at the hour of death..."

Even the most hardened of sinners, if he recites this chaplet just once will receive graces from My boundless mercy” (cf. *Diary* 687).

- “When this chaplet is said by others at the bedside of a dying person,” Jesus said, “God’s anger will be placated and unfathomable mercy will envelop the soul” (*Diary* 811).

The third specific promise concerns the temporal aspect of death (whereas the two former ones relate to its eternal outcome). There are two others:

- When the dying person himself says the chaplet; “When hardened sinners say [this chaplet], I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one” (cf. *Diary* 1541).
- When others say the chaplet around the person’s death-bed: “...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” (cf. *Diary* 1541).

The Hour of Mercy

In October 1937 in Krakow, in circumstances about which we have no details from Sister Faustina, Jesus instructed her to observe the hour of His death, which He called the “*hour of great mercy for the whole world*” (*Diary* 1320).

The hour of the Lord Jesus' death, 3pm, is a privileged time in regards to the devotion to the Divine Mercy. At that hour, in spirit we stand beneath Christ's cross in order to entreat for mercy for us and the whole world for the sake of the merits of His passion. The Lord Jesus said to Sister Faustina: "*At three o'clock implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world*" (Diary 1320). Immediately, it needs to be explained that what is meant here is not sixty minutes but the moment of Jesus' agony on the cross, therefore – the prayer at 3pm.

The Lord Jesus did not say what the exact wording of the prayer at 3 PM should be, however, He said that we can make the Stations of the Cross, visit the Blessed Sacrament and if there is no time for it – if only for a brief moment – we can unite ourselves with Him, dying on the cross, wherever we happen to be at that time. The subject-matter of the prayer is the mystery of the Lord's Passion.

"It was the hour of grace for the whole world," Jesus said on another occasion, "mercy triumphed over justice" (Diary 1572).

Jesus instructed Sister Faustina how to observe the Hour of Mercy. He told her:

- To beg for God's mercy for the entire world, and especially for sinners;

- To meditate on His Passion, especially on the fact that at the moment of death He was forsaken; to those who did this He promised that He would grant the grace of understanding the value of His Passion.

Jesus pointed out that there were three necessary conditions which had to be met for prayers at this hour to be heard:

- The prayers were to be addressed to Jesus;
- The prayers should be said at three o'clock in the afternoon;
- The prayers were to refer to the values and merits of His sorrowful Passion.

“In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion” (*Diary* 1320).

The Propagation of the Worship of Mercy

The task of preaching the message of Mercy arises from the gift received as early as during the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It is also a right and duty of the Church and, thus, of all the faithful. In 2002 Saint John Paul II said in Błonia Park in Krakow: *The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization: the civilization of love.*

My daughter, write down these words: All those souls who will glorify My mercy and spread its worship, encouraging others to trust in My mercy,

will not experience terror at the hour of death. My mercy will shield them in that final battle... (*Diary* 1540).

“I shield souls who spread the honor of My mercy through their entire life as a tender mother protects her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior,” (*Diary* 1075)

There are thus two promises addressed to all the propagators:

- The first promise concerns a maternal protection throughout their lives;
- The second concerns the hour of death.

Jesus addresses a special note of encouragement to priests, ensuring them that “hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words,” when they speak about His unfathomable mercy, about the compassion Jesus has for them in His Heart (*Diary* 1521).

Jesus gives no special definitions – apart from the preaching of sermons – on how the worship of Mercy is to be disseminated, so it may be assumed to cover a wide range. Being an apostle of the Divine Mercy means first and foremost giving witness with one’s life in the spirit of trust in God and mercy towards one’s neighbors.

A more profound analysis of the Dairy leads to the conclusion that what Jesus requires is not so much a new religious congregation, but a large-scale movement of religious revival in the spirit of devotion to the Divine Mercy.

The aim of this movement is to the carrying out all tasks at the present stage in the Church's and world history.

Jesus himself made the plan of what He wanted as far as the spirit and tasks of the Apostles of Divine Mercy, Jesus asked:

- Jesus' first demand: **"By your entreaties you and your companions shall obtain mercy for yourselves and for the world"** (*Diary* 435). He said, "through love you will reconcile earth with heaven, you will soften the just anger of God" (*Diary* 531).
- Jesus' second demand: **"Penetrate My mysteries and you will know the depth of My mercy towards creatures and My unfathomable goodness – and this you shall make known to the world"** (*Diary* 438).
- Jesus' third demand: For the mercy of God to be recognized and disseminated throughout the sinful world, Jesus wanted special prayer for priests and religious. **"I place in your care two pearls very precious to My Heart,"** He said, **"these are the souls of priests and religious. You will pray particularly for them; their power will come from your diminishment"** (*Diary* 531).
- Jesus' fourth demand: **You will prepare the world for My final coming.** (*Diary* 429).

Why would Christ emphasize in our time a doctrine, the Divine Mercy, which has been part of the patrimony of the Faith from the beginning,

as well as request new devotional and liturgical expressions of it? In His revelations to St. Faustina Jesus answers this question, connecting it to another doctrine, also sometimes little emphasized, that of His Second Coming.

In addition to these words of Our Lord, Sister Faustina gives us the Words of the Mother of Mercy, the Blessed Virgin: “You have to speak to the world about His great mercy and prepare the world for the Second Coming of Him who will come, not as a merciful Savior, but as a just Judge. Oh how terrible is that day! Determined is the day of justice, the day of divine wrath. The angels tremble before it. Speak to souls about this great mercy while it is still the time for granting mercy. (*Diary* 635).

Saint John Paul II in His Encyclical urges us “to implore God’s mercy for humanity in this hour of history ... to beg for it at this difficult, critical phase of the history of the Church and of the world as we approach the end of the second millennium.” (*Rich in Mercy* 15)

The origins of every authentic movement of worshippers and apostles of the Divine Mercy must go back to the figure of Sister Faustina.

Many priests, religious communities and lay persons who put the spirit of the devotion to the Divine Mercy into practice in their lives, thereby sharing in this great community of devotees and apostles of the Divine Mercy. May the number of people involved in this work be as large as possible,

since there is nothing that the world today needs more than living witnesses of the goodness of God, and hands joined in prayer for His mercy.

Jesus told Sister Faustina – **“mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy”** (*Diary* 300).

The message of mercy is that God loves us – all of us – no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A – Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B – Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C – Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Devotion to The Divine Mercy involves a total commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving, and to be merciful as He is merciful. Devotion to The Divine Mercy emphasizes the concept that The Divine Mercy message is

more than a devotion. It is a *way of life*. While it is important and appropriate to venerate the Image of the Merciful Savior and to pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, if these actions do not lead us to a deeper trust in God, a greater ability to forgive those who have hurt us, and to a stronger desire to be merciful to others, then the devotional aspects have done little, if anything, to bring us closer to Jesus.





UEAM TOBIE

APOSTLES OF DIVINE MERCY

This spark needs to be lighted by the grace of God. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world. In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness! I entrust this task to you, dear Brothers and Sisters, to the Church in Krakow and Poland, and to all the votaries of Divine Mercy who will come here from Poland and from throughout the world. May you be witnesses to mercy!

Saint John Paul II, Krakow, August 17, 2002



SAINT FAUSTINA (HELENA KOWALSKA)

“And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you! Jezu, ufam Tobie!” (Saint John Paul II, Homily, April 30, 2000)

Saint Faustina is “a gift from God for our times”, who reminded the biblical truth about merciful love of God for every human being and calls to proclaim it to the world through the testimony of life, deed, word and prayer.

She is Apostle of Divine Mercy, Prophet of Our Times, Great Mystic, Mistress of Spiritual Life – these are the epithets usually appended to the name of Sister Faustina Kowalska of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She is one of the Church’s most popular and widely known saints and the greatest mystics in the history of the Church.

Sister Faustina was born on August 25, 1905 in Głogowiec, Poland to Marianna and Stanisław Kowalski as the third of ten children.

Two days later she was baptized with the name Helena in the parish church of Świnice Warckie. At the age of nine, she made her first Holy Communion. She attended elementary school for merely three years and then she went to work as a housekeeper in various well-to-do families in Aleksandrów and Łódź. From the age of seven, she had felt the calling for religious vocation, but her parents would not give her permission to enter the convent. Impelled by the vision of the Suffering Christ, in July 1924 she left for Warsaw to find a Congregation. For another year she worked as a housekeeper to save some money for a modest monastic dowry. On August 01, 1925 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw.

She lived in the Congregation for thirteen years, staying in many houses, the longest time she spent in Kraków, Płock and Vilnius; working as a cook, shop assistant in the bakery shop, gardener, and portress. She suffered from tuberculosis of the lungs and alimentary system and that is why for over 8 months she stayed at the hospital in Kraków – Prądnik. Her sufferings caused by tuberculosis, she offered as a voluntary sacrifice for sinners and as an Apostle of Divine Mercy. She also experienced many extraordinary graces such as: apparitions, ecstasies, the gift of bilocation, hidden stigmata, reading into human souls, the mystical betrothal and nuptials.

Sister Faustina's principal task was to pass on to the Church and the world the Message of Mercy, a recapitulation of the Biblical truth of God's Merciful Love for every human being, and to call each one of us to entrust our lives to Him and to actively love our neighbor. Jesus not only revealed the depth of His Mercy to St. Faustina, but also gave her new forms of devotions: the image inscribed *Jesus, I trust in You*, the Feast of Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Prayer in the Hour of His Death on the Cross, the Hour of Mercy. To each of these forms of devotions, as well as to the propagation of the message of Mercy, Jesus attached great promises, on condition that we care about the attitude of trust in God that is to fulfill His will and show mercy to our neighbors.

Sister Faustina died in Krakow on October 5, 1938, at the age of thirty-three. Out of her charism and mystical experience grew the Apostolic Movement of the Divine Mercy which continues her mission, proclaiming the message of Mercy to the world through the testimony of life, deed, words and prayer. On April 18, 1993, the Saint John Paul II raised her to the glory of the altars and on April 30, 2000, numbered her among the saints of the Church. Her relics are in the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Łagiewniki, Kraków.

Saint John Paul II wrote that in the age of totalitarianisms Sister Faustina became the ambassador of the message that the only power strong enough to counteract their evil is the truth of God's Mercy.

He called her *Diary* “a Gospel of Mercy written from a 20th-century perspective”, which has helped people to survive the extremely painful experiences of these times. Pope Benedict XVI has said, “the message of Mercy as the Divine Power, as God putting a check on all the world’s evil, is indeed the chief message of our times”.

Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul

The *Diary* is one of the gems of mystical literature. Saint Faustina Kowalska wrote it in Vilnius and Cracow in 1934-1938 as Jesus had commanded her to do so directly. Her confessors, Father Michael Sopoćko and Father Joseph Andrasz S.J. had also ordered her to write it and the superiors of the Congregation had given her their consent. The earliest notes that have remained were written in July 1934. It is known that Sister Faustina burnt the first ones because when Fr. Michael Sopoćko was not in Vilnius she yielded in to the persuasion of an alleged angel who was Satan. Later Fr. Michael Sopoćko ordered her to reconstruct what had been destroyed. Therefore, the chronology in the present *Diary* is distorted, especially in the first notebook: the author intersperses current events and experiences with the description of those that happened before.

Sister Faustina wrote all the notes in secret when she was not carrying out her monastic duties. She also wrote them in the hospital, where

she had more time and, at Fr. Michael Sopocko's request, she underlined all Jesus' words with a pencil. "Although I am feeling weak and my nature is clamoring for rest, she admitted honestly, I feel the inspiration of grace telling me to take hold of myself and write, write for the comfort of souls, whom I love so much and with whom I will share all eternity. And I desire eternal life for them so ardently that that is why I use all my free moments, no matter how short, for writing in the way that Jesus wishes of me" (*Diary* 1471). The last notes were taken in June 1938, so Sister Faustina ceased writing the *Diary* three months before her death. She wrote six notebooks altogether, which were published along with a small notebook entitled: "My preparation for Holy Communion".

In the *Diary* Sister Faustina described her spiritual life, which was especially deep, reaching the summit of union with God in the mystical betrothal. She depicted how deeply she came to know the mystery of the Divine Mercy and how she contemplated it in her daily life. She also wrote about the struggle against the weaknesses of human nature and difficulties pertaining to the prophetic mission. Above all, the *Diary* contains the message of God's merciful love for man, which Sister Faustina was to pass on to the Church and the world.

THE BLESSED FATHER MICHAEL SOPOĆKO

In June 1933, Fr. Michael Sopoćko met Sister Faustina Kowalska for the first time. It was in Vilnius, where he was the regular confessor of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. “At the very beginning she told me that she knew me because of a vision. She also told me that I was to be her spiritual director, who was to fulfill some of God’s plans which were to be conveyed by her” – he recalled years later. Father Sopoćko was Sister Faustina’s confessor and spiritual director till March 21, 1936, that is, till she left Vilnius. Later he corresponded with her many times and, in this way, he gave her advice and directions for her spiritual life and the fulfillment of the mission, while he was in Cracow he visited her in the convent or in the hospital in Prądnik. At his request, Sister Faustina started to write the *Diary*. He was the person who took care of painting the first image of the Merciful Jesus in Vilnius in 1934 and of the public veneration, which took place during the celebrations of the Jubilee Year of the Redemption on April 26 -28, 1935 in Ostra Brama (the “Dawn Gate”). Still before World War II he made efforts to get the Church authorities to institute the Feast of Divine Mercy. He wrote a number of works on the truth of the Divine Mercy. Until the end of his life he strove for the institution of the feast and approval of the Divine Mercy Devotion.

Father Michael Sopoćko was born in Juszewszczyzna, in Oszmiański district, on November 01, 1888. In 1910 he entered the Seminary in Vilnius. In 1914 he was ordained and for four years he worked as a curate in Taboryszki. From 1919 to 1924 he was a chaplain in the army in Warsaw and, at the same time, he did specialty studies at the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Theology and at the Institute of Education. In 1924 he was moved to Vilnius, where, until 1932, he served as a chaplain in the army. Since 1928 he worked as an Assistant Professor in Pastoral Theology at the Faculty of Theology of Stefan Batory University. From 1927 to 1932 he served as a spiritual director in the Vilnius Seminary. In 1947 he came to Białystok and from that time till 1962 he gave lectures in the Seminary. It is astonishing how diverse his ministry was: he was a parish priest, a religious education teacher, he organized educational courses, served as a teacher, a lecturer in the University and the Seminary, a spiritual director, a confessor of seminarians, priests, and nuns. He was also a chaplain in the army, an activist who promoted sobriety and a builder of churches.

He died in Białystok on February 15, 1975. In 1987 the diocesan process towards the beatification of Fr. Sopoćko was inaugurated and in 1993 the acts of the case were handed over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. In 2004 Saint John Paul II promulgated a decree on the heroic virtues of the Servant of God and then a decree regarding

a miracle attributed to his intercession. He was beatified in Białystok on September 28, 2008 and his relics repose in the Divine Mercy church in Białystok, which has been raised to the rank of a diocesan sanctuary.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Karol Józef Wojtyła, elected Pope on October 16, 1978, was born in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920. He was the third of three children born to Karol Wojtyła and Emilia Kaczorowska, who died in 1929. His elder brother Edmund, a physician, died in 1932, and his father, Karol, a non-commissioned officer in the army, died in 1941. He was nine years old when he received his first communion and eighteen when he received the Sacrament of Confirmation. After completing high school in Wadowice, he enrolled in the Jagellonian University of Krakow in 1938.

When the occupying Nazi forces closed the University in 1939, Karol worked (1940-1944) in a quarry and then in the Solvay chemical factory to earn a living and to avoid deportation to Germany.

Feeling called to the priesthood, he began his studies in 1942 in the clandestine Major Seminary of Krakow, directed by Archbishop Adam Stefan Sapieha. During that time, he was one of the organizers of the “Rhapsodic Theatre”, which was also clandestine.

After the war, Karol continued his studies in the major seminary, newly reopened, and in the school of theology at the Jagellonian University, until his priestly ordination in Krakow on November 01, 1946. Father Wojtyła was then sent by Cardinal Sapieha to Rome, where he attained a doctorate in Theology (1948). He wrote his dissertation on faith as understood in the works of Saint John of the Cross. While a student in Rome, he spent his vacations exercising pastoral ministry among Polish emigrants in France, Belgium and Holland.

In 1948, Father Wojtyła returned to Poland and was appointed a curate in the parish church of Niegowić, near Krakow, and later at Saint Florian in Krakow. He was a university chaplain until 1951, when he again undertook studies in Philosophy and Theology. In 1953, Father Wojtyła presented a dissertation at the Jagellonian University of Krakow on the possibility of grounding a Christian Ethics on the Ethical System developed by Max Scheler. Later he became professor of Moral Theology and Ethics in the Major Seminary of Krakow and in the Theology Faculty of Lublin.

On July 4, 1958, Pope Pius XII appointed Father Wojtyła auxiliary bishop of Krakow, with the titular see of Ombi. Archbishop Eugeniusz Baziak ordained him in Wawel Cathedral (Krakow) on September 28, 1958.

On January 13, 1964, Pope Paul VI appointed Bishop Wojtyła as Archbishop of Krakow and subsequently, on June 26, 1967, created him a

cardinal. Bishop Wojtyła took part in the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and made a significant contribution to the drafting of the constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. He also took part in the five assemblies of the Synod of Bishops prior to the start of his Pontificate.

On October 16, 1978, Cardinal Wojtyła was elected Pope and on October 22 he began his ministry as universal Pastor of the church.

Saint John Paul II made 146 pastoral visits in Italy and, as the Bishop of Rome, he visited 317 of the current 322 roman parishes. His international apostolic journeys numbered 104 and were expressions of the constant pastoral solicitude of the Successor of Peter for all the churches.

His principal documents include 14 Encyclicals, 15 Apostolic Exhortations, 11 Apostolic constitutions and 45 Apostolic Letters. He also wrote five books: *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* (October 1994); *Gift and Mystery: On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination* (November 1996); *Roman Triptych, meditations in poetry* (March 2003); *Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way* (May 2004) and *Memory and Identity* (February 2005).

On May 13, 1981, an attempt was made on Saint John Paul II's life in Saint Peter's Square. Saved by the maternal hand of the Mother of God, following a lengthy stay in the hospital, he forgave the attempted assassin and, aware of having received a great gift, intensified his pastoral commitments with heroic generosity.

Saint John Paul II also demonstrated his pastoral concern by erecting numerous dioceses and ecclesiastical circumscriptions, and by promulgating codes of canon Law for the Latin and the Oriental churches, as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church. He proclaimed the Year of Redemption, the Marian Year and the Year of the Eucharist as well as the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, in order to provide the People of God with particularly intense spiritual experiences. He also attracted young people by beginning the celebration of World Youth Days.

No other Pope met as many people as Pope John Paul II. More than 17.6 million pilgrims attended his Wednesday General Audiences (which numbered over 1,160). This does not include any of the other special audiences and religious ceremonies (more than 8 million pilgrims in the Great Jubilee Year of 2000 alone). He met millions of the faithful in the course of his pastoral visits in Italy and throughout the world.

John Paul II – prophet of the Divine Mercy

On November 30, 1980, on the first Sunday of Advent, in the third year of his pontificate, Saint John Paul II promulgated his second encyclical on God's mercy *Dives in Misericordia*. On the same day, during the prayer of Angelus the Holy Father presented the main reasons for preparing this document, "I wanted very much to connect

the promulgation of the encyclical *Dives in Misericordia*, its main aim being to remind people of the Father's love revealed in the entire messianic message of Christ, from his coming to the world till the paschal mystery of his cross and resurrection. The Church and the world need mercy that means love stronger than sin and all evil that man and his earthy living are entangled in."

Dedication of the world to the Divine Mercy

Canonizing Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000 Saint John Paul II instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy in the whole Church, asking God through the intercession of the Saint from Krakow, "And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of Divine Mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters."

Saint John Paul II completed this act by solemn dedication of the world to the Divine Mercy, made on August 17, 2002. Then he reminded the community of the Church of the universal truth about the Divine Mercy and in the newly consecrated sanctuary in Lągiwniki, which he called the "World Center of the Devotion to Merciful Christ", he dedicated the fate of the world and every individual to God the Merciful Father who revealed his love in the Son, Jesus Christ, and poured it upon us in the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

Saint John Paul II died in the Apostolic Palace at 9:37 p.m. on Saturday, April 02, 2005, the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, which he had instituted. On April 08, his solemn funeral was celebrated in Saint Peter's Square and he was buried in the crypt of Saint Peter's Basilica. On May 01, 2011 Remains of Saint John Paul II was moved under the altar of Saint Sebastian, next to the Pieta.

John Paul II was beatified in Saint Peter's Square on May 01, 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI, his immediate successor and for many years his valued collaborator as Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014, on Divine Mercy Sunday.



IN THE RAYS OF DIVINE MERCY

Prayers

Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to him in prayer and in love. Ask him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with him who is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”!

Saint John Paul II, Homily, Paris, August 23, 1997



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

How to Recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades.

Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Begin with the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed:

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

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Then, on the large bead before each decade, say:

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 ten small beads of each decade, say:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Conclude with (3 Times):

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

Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



THE NOVENA TO THE DIVINE MERCY *(Diary 1220-1229)*

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on **Good Friday**. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena. Saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

“These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by. The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy.”

In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her: “On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls.”

The Lord told me to say this chaplet for nine days before the Feast of Mercy. By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls”.

First Day

Today bring to Me ALL MANKIND, ESPECIALLY ALL SINNERS, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Second Day

Today bring to 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.

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service, that they may perform worthy works of mercy; and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard—upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others

in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Third Day

Today bring to Me ALL DEVOUT AND FAITHFUL SOULS, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. The souls brought Me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were that drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness.

Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It. We beg this grace of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fourth Day

Today bring to Me **THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD AND THOSE WHO DO NOT YET KNOW ME**. I was thinking also of them during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart. Immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.

Most compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who do not believe in God and of those who as yet do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in You, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fifth Day

Today bring to Me THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM MY CHURCH, 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 return to unity with the Church, My wounds heal and in this way they alleviate My Passion.

Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Church. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to glorify the generosity of Your mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Son's Church, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in His Most Compassionate

Heart. Bring it about that they also may glorify
Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Sixth Day

Today bring to Me THE MEEK AND HUMBLE SOULS AND THE 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 vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of graces. Only the humble soul is capable of receiving My grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence.

Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek souls, upon humble souls, and upon little

children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Seventh Day

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.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of

all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy; and united to You, O Jesus, they carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their hearts, overflowing with joy, sing a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God:

Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Eighth Day

Today bring to Me THE SOULS WHO ARE DETAINED IN PURGATORY, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me.

They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice.

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet, who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of Purgatory, that there, too, the power of Your mercy may be celebrated.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded: Manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way but only through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Ninth Day

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 run to My mercy.

Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls, who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: Let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

THE HOUR OF GREAT MERCY

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

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

My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it; and if you are not able to make the Stations of the Cross, then at least step into the chapel for a moment and adore, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, My Heart, which is full of mercy; and should you be unable to step into the chapel, immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be, if only for a very brief instant. (*Diary* 1572)

Short Prayers to be used at the Hour of Great Mercy

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us (*Diary* 1319).

And then, three times:

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus, as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You (*Diary* 84).

Then follows the praying of the chaplet of Divine Mercy

O Jesus, eternal Truth, our Life, I call upon You and I beg Your mercy for poor sinners. O sweetest Heart of my Lord, full of pity and unfathomable mercy, I plead with You for poor sinners. O Most Sacred Heart, Fount of Mercy from which gush forth rays of inconceivable graces upon the entire human race, I beg of You light for poor sinners. O Jesus, be mindful of Your own bitter Passion and do not permit the loss of souls redeemed at so dear a price of Your most precious Blood. O Jesus, when I consider the great price of Your Blood, I rejoice at its immensity, for one drop alone would have

been enough for the salvation of all sinners. Although sin is an abyss of wickedness and ingratitude, the price paid for us can never be equalled. Therefore, let every soul trust in the Passion of the Lord, and place its hope in His mercy. God will not deny His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy will never be exhausted. Oh, what immense joy burns in my heart when I contemplate Your incomprehensible goodness, O Jesus! I desire to bring all sinners to Your feet that they may glorify Your mercy throughout endless ages. (*Diary 72*)

O Jesus, stretched out upon the cross, I implore You, give me the grace of doing faithfully the most holy will of Your Father, in all things, always and everywhere. And when this will of God will seem to me very harsh and difficult to fulfill, it is then I beg You, Jesus, may power and strength flow upon me from Your wounds, and may my lips keep repeating, "Your will be done, O Lord." O Savior of the world, Lover of man's salvation, who in such terrible torment and pain forget Yourself to think only of the salvation of souls, O most compassionate Jesus, grant me the grace to forget myself that I may live totally for souls, helping You in the work of salvation, according to the most holy will of Your Father. (*Diary 1265*)

PRAISES OF THE DIVINE MERCY (Diary 948-949)

The Love of God is the flower – Mercy the fruit.
Let the doubting soul read these considerations
on Divine Mercy and become trusting.

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of
the Father, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, fountain gushing forth from
the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect,
human or angelic, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and
happiness, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, better than the heavens,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole
universe, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person
of the Incarnate Word, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open
wound of the Heart of Jesus, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and especially for sinners, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, in the founding of Holy Church, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, accompanying us through our whole life, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, astonishment for Angels, incomprehensible to Saints, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, lifting us out of every misery, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from
nothingness to existence, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His
hands, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, crown of all of God's handiwork,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst
fear, *I Trust in You.*

Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls,
I Trust in You.

Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope,
I Trust in You.



PRAYER FOR THE GRACE TO BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS

This prayer gives us a true measure of our mercy, a mirror in which we observe ourselves as merciful Christ. We can make it our morning invocation and our evening examination of conscience.

O Most Holy Trinity! As many times as I breathe, as many times as my heart beats, as many times as my blood pulsates through my body, so many thousand times do I want to glorify Your mercy.

I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors' souls and come to their rescue.

Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbors' needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbors and take upon myself the more difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help me, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbor, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness. My true rest is in the service of my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. I will refuse my heart to no one. I will be sincere even with those who, I know, will abuse my kindness. And I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in silence. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

You Yourself command me to exercise the three degrees of mercy. **The first:** the act of mercy, of whatever kind. **The second:** the word of mercy – if I cannot carry out a work of mercy, I will assist by my words. **The third:** prayer – if I cannot show mercy by deeds or words, I can always do so by prayer. My prayer reaches out even there where I cannot reach out physically.

O my Jesus, transform me into Yourself, for You can do all things (*Diary* 163).

O my Jesus, thank You for the book which You have opened before my soul's eyes. That book is Your Passion which You underwent for love of me. It is from this book that I have learned how to love God and souls. In this book there are found for us inexhaustible treasures. O Jesus, how few souls understand You in Your martyrdom of love! (*Diary* 304).



PRAYERS AT THE FEET OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

O Jesus, Divine Prisoner of Love, when I consider Your love and how You emptied Yourself for me, my senses fail me. You hide Your inconceivable majesty and lower Yourself to miserable me. O King of Glory, though You hide Your beauty, yet the eye of my soul rends the veil. I see the angelic choirs giving You honor without cease, and all the heavenly Powers praising You without cease, and without cease they are saying: Holy, Holy, Holy.

Oh, who will comprehend Your love and Your unfathomable mercy toward us! O Prisoner of Love, I lock up my poor heart in this tabernacle that it may adore You without cease night and day. I know of no obstacle in this adoration, and even though I be physically distant, my heart is always with You. Nothing can put a stop to my love for You. No obstacles exist for me (*Diary* 80).

O Holy Trinity, One and Indivisible God, may You be blessed for this great gift and testament of mercy (*Diary* 81).

I adore You, Lord and Creator, hidden in the Blessed Sacrament. I adore You for all

the works of Your hands that reveal to me so much wisdom, goodness and mercy, O Lord. You have spread so much beauty over the earth, and it tells me about Your beauty, even though these beautiful things are but a faint reflection of You, Incomprehensible Beauty. And although You have hidden Yourself and concealed Your beauty, my eye, enlightened by faith, reaches You, and my soul recognizes its Creator, its Highest Good; and my heart is completely immersed in prayer of adoration (*Diary 1692*).

My Lord and Creator, Your goodness encourages me to converse with You. Your mercy abolishes the chasm which separates the Creator from the creature. To converse with You, O Lord, is the delight of my heart. In You I find everything that my heart could desire. Here Your light illumines my mind, enabling it to know You more and more deeply. Here streams of graces flow down upon my heart. Here my soul draws eternal life. O my Lord and Creator, You alone, beyond all these gifts, give Your own self to me and unite Yourself intimately with Your miserable creature (*Diary 1692*).

O Christ, I am most delighted when I see that You are loved, and that Your praise and glory resound, especially the praise of Your mercy.

O Christ, to the last moment of my life, I will not stop glorifying Your goodness and mercy. With every drop of my blood, with every beat of my heart, I glorify Your mercy. I long to be entirely transformed into a hymn of Your glory. When I find myself on my deathbed, may the last beat of my heart be a loving hymn in praise of Your unfathomable mercy (*Diary 1708*).



PRAYERS TO THE DIVINE MERCY

I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed.

O God of compassion, You alone can justify me and You will never reject me when I, contrite, approach Your Merciful Heart, where no one has ever been refused, even if he were the greatest sinner (*Diary 1730*).

For Your Son assured me: Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy fail to embrace a trusting soul (*Diary 1777*).

Jesus, Friend of a lonely heart, You are my haven, You are my peace. You are my salvation, You are my serenity in moments of struggle and amidst an ocean of doubts. You are the bright ray that lights up the path of my life. You are everything to a lonely soul. You understand the soul even though it remains silent. You know our weaknesses and, like a good physician, You comfort and heal, sparing us sufferings – expert that You are (*Diary* 247).

PRAYER IN THANKSGIVING

O Jesus, eternal God, I thank You for Your countless graces and blessings. Let every beat of my heart be a new hymn of thanksgiving to You, O God. Let every drop of my blood circulate for You, Lord. My soul is one hymn in adoration of Your mercy. I love You, God, for Yourself alone (*Diary* 1794).



PRAYER FOR DIVINE MERCY FOR THE WORLD

O Greatly Merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to Your mercy – to Your compassion, O God; and it is with its mighty voice of misery

that it cries out. Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, Who are acquainted with our misery through and through, and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to You, we implore You: anticipate us with Your grace and keep on increasing Your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do Your holy will all through our life and at death's hour. Let the omnipotence of Your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as Your children, await Your final coming, that day known to You alone. And we expect to obtain everything promised us by Jesus in spite of all our wretchedness. For Jesus is our Hope: Through His merciful Heart, as through an open gate, we pass through to heaven (*Diary* 1570).



PRAYERS FOR THE PRIESTS

I place in your care two pearls very precious to My Heart: these are the souls of priests and religious. You will pray particularly for them; their power will come from your diminishment (*Diary* 531).

Hardened sinners will repent on hearing their [Priests] words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak (*Diary 1521*).

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:

Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; You yourself maintain them in holiness.

O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things. (*Diary 1052*)



PRAYER FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS

God of great mercy, who deigned to send us Your only begotten Son as the greatest proof of Your fathomless love and mercy, You do not reject sinners; but in Your boundless mercy You have opened for them also Your treasures, treasures from which they can draw abundantly, not only justification, but also all the sanctity that a soul can attain. Father of great mercy, I desire that all hearts turn with confidence to Your infinite mercy. No one will be justified before You if he is not accompanied by Your unfathomable mercy. When You reveal the mystery of Your mercy to us, there will not be enough of eternity to properly thank You for it. (*Diary 1122*)



PRAYERS FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O merciful Jesus, stretched on the cross, be mindful of the hour of our death. O most merciful Heart of Jesus, opened with a lance, shelter me at the last moment of my life. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of unfathomable mercy for me at the hour of my death, O dying Jesus, Hostage of

mercy, avert the Divine wrath at the hour of my death. (*Diary* 813)

O my Jesus, may the last days of my exile be spent totally according to Your most holy will. I unite my sufferings, my bitterness and my last agony itself to Your Sacred Passion; and I offer myself for the whole world to implore an abundance of God's mercy for souls, and in particular for the souls who are in our homes. I firmly trust and commit myself entirely to Your holy will, which is mercy itself. Your mercy will be everything for me at the last hour, as You yourself have promised me. (*Diary* 1574)



PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

O Mary, Mother of Mercy

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, teach us to love Jesus and live the spirit of our vocation more and more, the spirit of faith, hope and love, the spirit of obedience and of loving the holy will of God, the spirit of chastity, poverty and humility, the spirit of mercy and apostolic zeal for the salvation of souls, especially those whom the boundless mercy of Your Divine Son has entrusted to us.

The Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's
lowliness;

behold, from now on will all ages call me
blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,

dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant,

remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

(Lk 1:46-55)

O Mary, my Mother and my Lady, I offer You my soul, my body, my life and my death, and all that will follow it. I place everything in Your hands. O my Mother, cover my soul with Your virginal mantle and grant me the grace of purity of heart, soul and body. Defend me with Your power against all enemies, and especially against those who hide their malice behind the mask of virtue. O lovely lily! You are for me a mirror, O my Mother! (*Diary* 79).

Mother of God, Your soul was plunged into a sea of bitterness; look upon Your child and teach her to suffer and to love while suffering. Fortify my soul that pain will not break it. Mother of grace, teach me to live by the power of God. (*Diary* 315)

O Mary ... a terrible sword has pierced your holy soul. Except for God, no one knows of your suffering. Your soul does not break; it is brave, because it is with Jesus. Sweet Mother, unite my soul to Jesus, because it is only then that I will be able to endure all trials and tribulations, and only in union with Jesus will my little sacrifices be pleasing to God. Sweetest Mother, continue to teach me about the interior life. May the sword of suffering never break me. O pure Virgin, pour courage into my heart and guard it (*Diary* 915).

Litany of Loreto

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of virgins, *pray for us.*

Mother of Christ, *pray for us.*

Mother of divine grace, *pray for us.*

Mother most pure, *pray for us.*

Mother most chaste, *pray for us.*

Mother inviolate, *pray for us.*

Mother undefiled, *pray for us.*

Mother most amiable, *pray for us.*

Mother most admirable, *pray for us.*

Mother of good counsel, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Creator, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Savior, *pray for us.*

Virgin most prudent, *pray for us.*

Virgin most venerable, *pray for us.*

Virgin most renowned, *pray for us.*

Virgin most powerful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most merciful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most faithful, *pray for us.*
Mirror of justice, *pray for us.*
Seat of wisdom, *pray for us.*
Cause of our joy, *pray for us.*
Spiritual vessel, *pray for us.*
Vessel of honor, *pray for us.*
Singular vessel of devotion, *pray for us.*
Mystical rose, *pray for us.*
Tower of David, *pray for us.*
Tower of ivory, *pray for us.*
House of gold, *pray for us.*
Ark of the Covenant, *pray for us.*
Gate of heaven, *pray for us.*
Morning star, *pray for us.*
Health of the sick, *pray for us.*
Refuge of sinners, *pray for us.*
Comforter of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Help of Christians, *pray for us.*
Queen of Angels, *pray for us.*
Queen of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Prophets, *pray for us.*
Queen of Apostles, *pray for us.*
Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Confessors, *pray for us.*
Queen of Virgins, *pray for us.*
Queen of all Saints, *pray for us.*
Queen conceived without original sin,
pray for us.
Queen assumed into heaven, *pray for us.*

Queen of the most holy Rosary, *pray for us.*
Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world, *spare us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world, *graciously hear us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world, *have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

*That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.*

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech you, O Lord God, that we,
your servants, may enjoy perpetual health of
mind and body; and by the intercession of the
Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may be delivered
from present sorrow, and obtain eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(During the Month of October)

Pray for us, O Queen of the most holy Rosary.

*That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.*

Let us pray.

O God, whose only-begotten Son, through his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for the protection and intercession
of the Holy Mother of Mercy**

O our Lady, Holy Mary! To Your mercy, special protection and Your compassion, today and everyday and in the hour of my death, my soul and my body I entrust to You. My every hope and happiness, oppressions and concerns, my life and the end of my life to You I confide, so that through your merits all my deeds are done according to Your will and that of Your Son. Amen.



WAY OF THE CROSS

Based on St. Faustina's *Diary*

Introductory Prayer

Merciful Jesus, my Master, I desire to follow you in fidelity and imitate you each day with more perfection. For this reason I beg you, that through the meditation of your Passion, I may receive the grace of understanding each day with more perfection, the mysteries of the spiritual life. Mary, Mother of Mercy, always faithful to Christ, guide me through the steps of the sorrowful passion of your Son and grant me the necessary graces so that this Way of the Cross may be fruitful in my heart.

STATION I: Jesus is Condemned to Death

- We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,
- Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Do not be surprised that you are sometimes unjustly accused. I myself first drank this cup of undeserved suffering for love of you. (289). When I was before Herod, I obtained a grace for you, that you would be able to rise above human scorn and follow faithfully in my footsteps (1164).

Jesus, we are sensitive to words and quickly want to answer back, without taking any regard

as to whether it's God's will that we should speak. A silent soul is strong: no adversities will harm it if it perseveres in silence. The silent soul is capable of attaining the closest union with God. (477).

Merciful Jesus, help me accept each human judgment, do not ever allow me to judge you when judging my neighbor.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION II: Jesus takes up His Cross

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Do not be afraid of suffering, I am with you, (151). The more you will come to love suffering, the purer your love for Me will be. (279).

Oh Jesus, I thank you for the Little daily crosses, for opposition to my endeavors, for the hardships of communal life, for the misinterpretation of my intentions, for humiliations at the hands of others, for the harsh way in which we are treated, for false suspicions, for poor health and loss of strength, for self-denial, for dying to myself, for lack of recognition in everything, for the upsetting of all my plans. (343).

Merciful Jesus, teach me to appreciate the difficulties of life, sickness, each suffering, and with love take up my daily cross.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION III: Jesus falls for the first time

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Involuntary offenses of souls do not hinder My love for them or prevent Me from uniting Myself with them. But voluntary offenses, obstruct my graces, and I cannot lavish My gifts on such souls. (1641).

Oh my Jesus, how prone I am to evil, and this forces me to be constantly vigilant. But I do not lose heart. I trust God's grace, which abounds in the worst misery. (606).

Merciful Lord, keep me from any infidelity, even the smallest one, but voluntary and consent.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION IV: Jesus meets His Mother

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Although all the work that come into being by My will are exposed to great sufferings, consider whether any of them has been subject to greater difficulties than that work which is directly Mine, the work of Redemption. You should not worry too much about adversities. (1643).

I saw the Blessed Mother (...), she came close to me (...) and said these words: Be courageous. Do not fear apparent obstacles, but fix your gaze upon the Passion of My Son, and in this way you will be victorious. (449).

Mary, Mother of Mercy, be always with me, especially in suffering, in the same way that you were present in your Son's way of the Cross.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION V: Simon Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

I permit these adversities in order to increase his merit. I do not reward for good results but for the patience and hardship undergone for My sake. (86).

Oh, my Jesus, you do not give a reward for the successful performance of a work, but for the good will and the labor undertaken. Therefore, I am completely at peace, even if all my undertakings and efforts should be thwarted or should come to naught. If I do all that is in my power, the rest is not my business. (952).

Jesus, that each thought, each word, each activity may be done only for love of you. Purify my intentions.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION VI: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Know that whatever good you do for any soul, I accept it as if you had done it to Me. (1768).

I am learning how to be good from Jesus, from Him who is goodness itself, so that I might be called a daughter of the heavenly Father. (669). Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions. (303).

Lord Jesus. My Master, make my eyes, my hands, my mouth, my heart, my ears... merciful. Transform me into your Mercy.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION VII: Jesus falls for the second time

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

The cause of your falls is that you rely too much upon yourself and too little on Me. (1488). You must know that on your own, you can do

nothing. (639). You are not even capable of receiving my graces without my help. (738).

Jesus, do not leave me alone (..). You know, Lord, how weak I am. I am an abyss of wretchedness; I am nothingness itself; so what will be so strange if You leave me alone and I fall (1489). So You, Jesus, must stand by me constantly like a mother by a helpless child – and even more so. (264).

May I lean on your grace, Lord, so that I may not fall continuously on the same errors: and if I fall, help me rise and glorify your Mercy.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION VIII: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Oh, how pleasing to Me is a living faith! (1420). I desire that you would all have more faith at the present time (352).

I fervently beg the Lord to strengthen my faith, so that in my drab, everyday life I will not be guided by human depositions, but by those of the spirit. Oh, how everything drags man towards the earth! But lively faith maintains the soul in the

highest regions and assigns self-love its proper place, that is to say, the lowest one. (210).

Merciful Lord, thank you for Holy Baptism and the grace of faith. I call you again. Lord, I believe, increase my faith!

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION IX: Jesus falls for the third time

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Know that the greatest obstacle to holiness are discouragement and an exaggerated anxiety. This will deprive you of the ability to practice virtue. I am always willing to forgive you. Every time you ask for it, you glorify my Mercy (1488).

Oh My Jesus, in spite of your graces. I see and feel all my misery. I begin my day with a battle and end it with a battle. As soon as I conquer one obstacle, ten more appear to take its place. But I am not worried, because I know that this is the time of struggle, not peace (606).

Merciful Lord, I give you everything that is my exclusive property, that is, sin and human frailty. I beg you, that my misery may be drown in your unfathomable Mercy.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION X: Jesus is stripped of His Garments

- We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,
- Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Jesus was suddenly standing before me, stripped of His clothes, His body completely covered with wounds, His eyes flooded with tears and blood, His face disfigured and covered with spittle. The Lord then said to me: The bride must resemble her Betrothed.

I understood these words to the very depth. There's no room for doubt here. My likeness to Jesus must be through suffering and humility (268).

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, transform my heart according to your Heart.

- For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
- have mercy on us and on the whole world.

STATION XI: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

- We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,
- Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

My pupil, have great love for those who cause you suffering. Do good to those who hate you (1628).

Oh my Jesus, you know what efforts are needed to live sincerely and unaffectedly with those from whom our nature flees, or with those who, deliberately or not, have made us suffer. Humanly speaking, this is impossible at such times more than others, I try to discover the Lord Jesus in such a person and for this same Jesus, I do everything for such a people. (compare 766).

Oh purest Love, reign in all your plenitude in my heart and allow me to love more than what human measure allows me to. (compare 328).

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION XII: Jesus dies on the Cross

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

All this is for the salvation of souls. Reflect, my daughter, about what you do for their salvation (1184).

Then I saw the Lord Jesus nailed to the cross. When He had hung on it for a while, I saw a multitude of souls crucified like Him. The second multitude were not nailed to their crosses, but they were holding them firmly in their hands. The third were neither nailed to their crosses nor holding them firmly in their

hands, but were dragging their crosses behind them and were discontent. Jesus then said to me: Do you see these souls? Those who are like Me in the pain and contempt they suffer will be like Me also in glory. And those who resemble Me less in pain and contempt will also bear less resemblance to Me in glory. (446).

Jesus, my Savior, hide me in the depths of Your Heart so that nourished by your grace, I may be able to be like you in the love for the cross and in the participation of Your glory.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION XIII: Jesus is laid in the arms of His Mother

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Most dear to me is the soul that strongly believes in my goodness and has complete trust in me. I heap my confidence upon it, and give it all it asks (453).

I come to Your Mercy, compassionate God, only You are goodness itself. Although my misery is great, and my offences are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and from time immemorial, it has

never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed (1730)

Jesus, multiply in me each day the trust in Your Mercy, so that always and everywhere I may be a witness of your goodness and infinite love.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

STATION XIV: Jesus is laid in the tomb

- **We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,**
- **Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

You are not yet in your homeland; so go, fortified by My grace, and fight for My kingdom in human souls; fight as a king's child would; and remember that the days of your exile will pass quickly, and with them the possibility of earning merits for heaven. I expect from you (...) a great number of souls who will glorify my mercy for all eternity (1489).

Every soul You have entrusted to me, Jesus, I will try to aid with prayer and sacrifice, so that your grace can work in them. Oh great Lover of souls, my Jesus, I thank you for this immense confidence with which You have deigned to place souls in our care. (245).

Merciful Lord, I beg you that not even one of the souls which you have entrusted to me, may be lost.

- **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,**
- **have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

Prayer after the Way of the Cross

My Jesus, my only hope, I am grateful for this great book you have opened before the eyes of my soul. This great book is your Passion you have confronted out of love for me. From this book I have learned how to love God and souls. Inexhaustible treasures are stored in it (...) Oh Jesus, how few souls understand you in your martyrdom of love (...). Happy the soul that has understood the love from the Heart of Jesus (304).

Amen.

LITANIES

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*

Christ, have mercy, *Christ, have mercy*

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*

God our Father in heaven, *have mercy on us*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the

womb of the Virgin Mother, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, one with the eternal Word,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, infinite in majesty,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, source of justice and love,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, well-spring of all virtue,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, treasure-house of wisdom and
knowledge, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, in whom there dwells the fullness
of God, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well
pleased, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, from whose fullness we have all
received, *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, desire of the eternal hills,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn to you,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with insults,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, broken for our sins,
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, obedient even to death,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, pierced by a lance,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation
have mercy on us,
Heart of Jesus, victim of our sins,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, salvation of all who trust in you,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, hope of all who die in you,
have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,
have mercy on us

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, meek and humble of Heart,

Make our hearts like Yours.

Let us pray.

Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son. Open our hearts to share his life and continue to bless us with his love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, have mercy, *Christ, have mercy*
Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*
God our Father in heaven, *have mercy on us*
God the Son, *have mercy on us*
Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us*
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, Son of the living God, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, splendor of the Father, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, brightness of everlasting light,
have mercy on us
Jesus, king of glory, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, dawn of justice, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, worthy of our love, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, worthy of our wonder, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, mighty God, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, father of the world to come,
have mercy on us

Jesus, prince of peace, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, all-powerful, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, pattern of patience, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, model of obedience, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,
have mercy on us
Jesus, lover of chastity, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, lover of us all, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, God of peace, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, author of life, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, model of goodness, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, seeker of souls, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, our God, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, our refuge, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, father of the poor, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, treasure of the faithful, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, Good Shepherd, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, the true light, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, eternal wisdom, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, infinite goodness, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, our way and our life, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, joy of angels, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, king of patriarchs, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, teacher of apostles, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, master of evangelists, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, courage of martyrs, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, light of confessors, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, purity of virgins, *have mercy on us*
Jesus, crown of all saints, *have mercy on us*

Lord, be merciful, *Jesus, save your people*
From all evil, *Jesus, save your people*
From every sin, *Jesus, save your people*
From the snares of the devil,
 Jesus, save your people
From your anger, *Jesus, save your people*
From the spirit of infidelity,
 Jesus, save your people
From everlasting death, *Jesus, save your people*
From neglect of your Holy Spirit,
 Jesus, save your people
By the mystery of your incarnation,
 Jesus, save your people
By your birth, *Jesus, save your people*
By your childhood, *Jesus, save your people*
By your hidden life, *Jesus, save your people*
By your public ministry, *Jesus, save your people*
By your agony and crucifixion,
 Jesus, save your people
By your abandonment, *Jesus, save your people*
By your grief and sorrow, *Jesus, save your people*
By your death and burial, *Jesus, save your people*
By your rising to new life, *Jesus, save your people*
By your return in glory to the Father,
 Jesus, save your people
By your gift of the holy Eucharist,
 Jesus, save your people
By your joy and glory, *Jesus, save your people*

Christ, hear us, *Christ, hear us*
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer, *Lord Jesus, hear our*
prayer
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,
Spare us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,
Graciously hear us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the
world,
Have mercy on us, O Jesus.
Jesus, hear us.
Jesus, graciously hear us.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek, and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened to you." Grant, we beg of You, to us who ask it, the gift of Your most divine love, that we may ever love You with our whole heart, in word and deed, and never cease praising You.

Give us, O Lord, as much a lasting fear as a lasting love of Your Holy Name, for You, who live and are King for ever and ever, never fail to govern those whom You have solidly established in Your love. Amen.

Litany Of The Most Precious Blood

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, have mercy, *Christ, have mercy*
Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy*

God our Father in heaven, *have mercy on us*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy*
on us

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us*

Blood of Christ, only Son of the Father,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, incarnate Word, *be our salvation*

Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal covenant,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, that spilled to the ground,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, that flowed at the scourging,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, dripping from the thorns,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, shed on the cross,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, the price of our redemption,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, our only claim to pardon,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, our blessing cup,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, in which we are washed,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, torrent of mercy,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, that overcomes evil,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, strength of the martyrs,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, endurance of the saints,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, that makes the barren fruitful,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, protection of the threatened,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, comfort of the weary,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, solace of the mourner,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, our peace and refreshment,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, our pledge of life, *be our salvation*

Blood of Christ, by which we pass to glory,
be our salvation

Blood of Christ, most worthy of honor,
be our salvation

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us, O Lord.*

You have redeemed us, O Lord, in Your Blood.
And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

Let us pray.

Father, by the blood of your Son you have set us free and saved us from death. Continue your work of love within us, that by constantly celebrating the mystery of our salvation we may reach the eternal life it promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Prayer of the Holy Father, which he recited at the end of the Via Crucis (April 19,2019)

Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world:

- the cross of people hungry for bread and for love;
- the cross of people alone and abandoned even by their children and kin;
- the cross of people thirsty for justice and for peace;
- the cross of people who lack the comfort of faith;
- the cross of the elderly who struggle under the weight of years and of loneliness;
- the cross of migrants who find doors closed in fear and hearts armoured by political calculations;
- the cross of little ones, wounded in their innocence and their purity;
- the cross of humanity that wanders in the darkness of uncertainty and in the obscurity of temporary culture;
- the cross of families split by betrayal, by the seductions of the evil one or by homicidal levity and selfishness;

- the cross of consecrated people who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world and feel rejected, derided and humiliated;
- the cross of consecrated people who, along the way, have forgotten their first love;
- the cross of your children who, while believing in you and seeking to live according to your word, find themselves marginalized and rejected even by their families and their peers;
- the cross of our weaknesses, of our hypocrisy, of our betrayals, of our sins and of our many broken promises;
- the cross of your Church that, faithful to your Gospel, struggles to spread your love even among the baptized themselves;
- the cross of the Church, your Bride, that feels constantly assailed from within and without;
- the cross of our common home that is gravely withering before our selfish eyes, blinded by greed and by power.

Lord Jesus, revive in us the hope of resurrection and of your definitive victory over all evil and all death. Amen!

Prayer of the Holy Father at the end of the Way of the Cross (30 March 2018)

Lord Jesus, our gaze is turned to you, full of shame, remorse and hope. Before your supreme love

- shame pervades us for having left you alone to suffer for our sins;
- shame for having fled when tested despite having said to you a thousand times: "even if all leave you, I will never leave you";
- shame for having chosen Barabbas and not you, power and not you, appearances and not you, the god of money and not you, worldliness and not eternity;
- shame for having tempted you with mouth and heart, each time that we faced a trial, saying to you: "you are the Messiah, save yourself and we will believe!";
- shame because many people, and even some of your ministers, have allowed themselves to be deceived by ambition and vainglory, losing their dignity and the love they had at first;
- shame because our generations are leaving young people a world fractured by divisions and war; a world devoured by selfishness in which the young, the children, the sick, the elderly are marginalized;
- shame for having lost our shame;

Lord Jesus, grant us always the grace of holy shame!

Our gaze is also filled with remorse which before your *eloquent silence* implores your mercy:

- remorse which germinates in the certainty that you alone can save us from evil; you alone can heal us from our leprosy of hate, selfishness, pride, greed, vengeance, avarice, idolatry; you alone can embrace us again, restoring our filial dignity and rejoicing in our return to home, to life;
- remorse which blossoms from feeling our pettiness, our nothingness, our vanity, and which allows itself to be caressed by your pleasing and powerful call to conversion;
- remorse of David who, from the abyss of his misery, found in you his unique strength;
- remorse which arises from our shame, which is born from the certainty that our heart will always be unsettled until we find you and in you its sole source of fulfillment and calm;
- the remorse of Peter who, in meeting your gaze, wept bitterly for having denied you before men.

Lord Jesus, grant us always the grace of holy remorse!

Before your supreme majesty, in the obscurity of our despair, a glimmer of hope ignites because we know that your unique measure of loving us is that of loving us without measure:

- hope because your message continues to inspire, still today, many people and peoples for whom good alone can conquer evil and cruelty; forgiveness alone can destroy rancour and vengeance; fraternal embrace alone can dispel hostility and fear of the other;
- hope because your sacrifice continues, still today, to emit the perfume of divine love which caresses the hearts of many young people who continue to consecrate their lives to you, becoming living examples of charity and gratuitousness in this world of ours, devoured by the logic of profit and easy earnings;
- hope because so many missionaries continue, still today, to challenge humanity's dormant conscience, risking their lives to serve you in the poor, the rejected, the immigrants, the invisible, the exploited, the hungry and the imprisoned;
- hope because your Church, holy and comprised of sinners, continues, still today, despite attempts to discredit her, to be a light that illuminates, encourages, comforts

and witnesses to your boundless love for mankind, a model of altruism, an ark of salvation and font of certainty and truth;

- hope because the Resurrection has sprung from your Cross, fruit of the greed and cowardice of many doctors of the Law and hypocrites, transforming the darkness of the tomb into the splendour of the dawn of the Sunday whose sun never sets, teaching us that your love is our hope.

Lord Jesus, grant us always the grace of holy hope!

Help us, Son of man, to strip ourselves of the arrogance of the robber placed at your left and of the shortsightedness of the corrupt, who have seen in you an opportunity to exploit, a condemned man to criticize, a defeated man to deride, another occasion to ascribe to others, and even to God, their own faults.

We ask you instead, Son of God, to identify us with the good robber who looked at you with eyes full of shame, remorse and hope; who, with the eyes of faith, saw divine victory in your seeming defeat and thus knelt before your mercy, and with honesty, stole paradise! Amen!

Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of our faith

Mother, help our faith!

Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call.

Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise.

Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith.

Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.

Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

LITANY TO SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Lord, *have mercy on us.* Christ, *have mercy on us.*

Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Blessed John Paul II, *pray for us.*

Immersed in the Father rich in mercy,

pray for us.

United with Christ, the Redeemer of man,

pray for us.

Full of the Holy Spirit, Lord and Animator,

pray for us.

Completely devoted to Mary, *pray for us.*

Friend of Saints and Blessed, *pray for us.*

Successor of St Peter and Servant of Servants of

God, *pray for us.*

Guardian of the Church teaching truths of the

faith, *pray for us.*

Father of the Vatican Council and Executor of its

teachings, *pray for us.*

Consolidating Christian unity and the entire

human family, *pray for us.*

Fervent Lover of the Eucharist, *pray for us.*

Indefatigable Pilgrim of this earth, *pray for us.*
Missionary of all nations, *pray for us.*
Witness to faith, hope and charity, *pray for us.*
Enduring participant of Christ's suffering,
pray for us.
Apostle of reconciliation and peace, *pray for us.*
Promoter of the civilization of love, *pray for us.*
Proclaimer of the New Evangelization,
pray for us.
Master appealing for sailing into the depths,
pray for us.
Teacher showing sanctity as the measure of life,
pray for us.
Pope of Divine Mercy, *pray for us.*
Priest congregating the Church for sacrifice,
pray for us.
Shepherd leading his flock to heaven, *pray for us.*
Brother and Master of priests, *pray for us.*
Father of the consecrated, *pray for us.*
Patron of Christian families, *pray for us.*
Fortification of spouses, *pray for us.*
Defender of the unborn, *pray for us.*
Guardian of children, orphans and the
abandoned, *pray for us.*
Friend and Educator of youth, *pray for us.*
Good Samaritan for those who suffer, *pray for us.*
Solace for the elderly and lonely, *pray for us.*
Proclaimer of the truth of human dignity,
pray for us.

Man of prayer immersed in God, *pray for us.*
Lover of the liturgy of the Divine Sacrifice
celebrated on the world's altars, *pray for us.*
Personification of industriousness, *pray for us.*
In love with the Cross of Christ, *pray for us.*
Exemplary pursuer of his vocation, *pray for us.*
Enduring in suffering, *pray for us.*
Model of living and dying for the Lord,
pray for us.
Admonisher of sinners, *pray for us.*
Guidepost to those who lost their way,
pray for us.
Forgiver of wrongdoers, *pray for us.*
Respecter of opponents and oppressors,
pray for us.
Advocate and Defender of the oppressed,
pray for us.
Supporter of the unemployed, *pray for us.*
Concerned about the homeless, *pray for us.*
Visitor of prisoners, *pray for us.*
Fortifier of the weak, *pray for us.*
Teaching everyone solidarity, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, *have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, blessed John Paul,
*So that we would proclaim to the world with life
and words Christ the Redeemer of man.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept our thanksgiving for the gift of the apostolic life and mission of Blessed John Paul II and through his intercession help us grow in our love for You and courageously proclaim the love of Christ to all people. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Litany has imprimatur of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow from April 12, 2011.



**PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES THROUGH
THE INTERCESSION OF THE BLESSED
FATHER MICHAEL SOPOĆKO**

Oh Merciful God, You have made Blessed Fr. Sopoćko, the apostle of Your endless Mercy and venerator of Our Lady, the Mother of Mercy, grant, through his intercession, that by praising Your Mercy and arousing trust in Your fatherly goodness, I will obtain the grace of
I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be...

**PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES
THROUGH THE INTERCESSION
OF SAINT FAUSTINA**

O Jesus, You inspired Saint Faustina with profound veneration for Your boundless Mercy, deign, if it be Your Holy Will, to grant me, through her intercession, the grace for which I fervently pray..... My sins render me unworthy of Your Mercy, but be mindful of Saint Faustina's spirit of sacrifice and self-denial, and reward her virtue by granting the petition which, with childlike confidence, I present to You through her intercession.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be...



**PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES
THROUGH THE INTERCESSION
OF THE SAINT JOHN PAUL II**

O Holy Trinity, we thank you for having given to the Church, Pope John Paul II, and for having made him shine with your fatherly tenderness, the glory of the Cross of Christ and the splendor of the Spirit of love. He, trusting completely in your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, has shown himself in the likeness of Jesus the Good Shepherd and has

pointed out to us holiness as the path to reach eternal communion with You. Grant us, through his intercession, according to your will, the grace that we implore, in the hope that he will soon be numbered among your saints. Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be...



CHRONOLOGY OF REVELATIONS OF DEVOTION TO DIVINE MERCY TO SAINT FAUSTINA

1931

Revelation of the Image of Divine Mercy (*Diary 47*)

Revelation of the Feast of Divine Mercy (*Diary 49*)

1934

Revelation of the Meaning of the Rays in the Image of Divine Mercy (*Diary 299*)

Revelation regarding the Inscription on the Image of Divine Mercy (*Diary 327*)

Revelation of the Day of Justice – Second Coming of Christ (*Diary 83*)

Revelation that Mercy is the greatest attribute of God (*Diary 301*)

1935

Revelation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (*Diary 476*)

Revelation of Pain caused by distrust of God's Mercy by Chosen Souls (*Diary 379*)

Revelation of God's desire to give graces to souls (*Diary 367*)

Revelation of promise to promoters of God's Mercy (*Diary 378*)

Revelation on Public Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy (*Diary 414*)

- Revelation of Christ's blessing of the world on
Mercy Sunday (*Diary 420*)
- Revelation of the merit of meditating on the
Passion of Jesus (*Diary 369*)
- Revelation of Image Rays of Mercy coming from
Eucharist (*Diary 370*)
- Revelation of Image Rays of Mercy passing
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- Revelation of the Power of the Chaplet to appease
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- Revelation on the Obedience of Jesus (*Diary 535*)
- Revelation of the Power of Trust in God's
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- Revelation on the Feast of Mercy and the Image of
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- Revelation on the Power of the Will of God
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- Revelation on Purity and Humility of Souls
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- Revelation on Jesus' relationship with chosen souls
(*Diary 580*)
- Revelation of Jesus' desire for a new Religious
Order (*Diary 438*)

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- Revelations how Jesus Speaks to Souls (*Diary 584*)
- Revelation on the Will of God (*Diary 586*)
- Revelation on the Second Coming of Christ
(*Diary 625, 635*)

- Revelation on the Suffering of Jesus on Good Friday (*Diary* 648)
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1937

Revelation of the Value of Sacrifice (*Diary* 1316)

Revelation on doing the Will of God (*Diary* 904, 923, 955, 1023)

Revelation of the Holy Hour – 3 O' Clock
(*Diary* 1320)

Revelation of the Novena to Divine Mercy
(*Diary* 1209)

Revelation of Promise to those promoting the devotion to the Mercy of God (*Diary* 1074)

Revelation on the Second Coming of Christ and the Feast of Divine Mercy (*Diary* 964-966)

Revelation on the Importance of Silence, Prayer and Meditation (*Diary* 1008)

Revelation on the flow of Graces to Souls
(*Diary* 1017)

Revelation of Jesus' desire to grant mercy
(*Diary* 1074)

Revelation regarding the Feast of Mercy
(*Diary* 1109)

Revelation of Jesus' love for acts of charity
(*Diary* 1029)

Revelation on the Means to Save Souls (*Diary* 1032)

Revelation on power of Jesus to reveal knowledge
(*Diary* 1147)

Revelation on the power of Jesus (*Diary* 1153)

Revelation of the power of Jesus to influence
Priests (*Diary* 1163)
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Revelation on Mortal Sin (*Diary* 1181)
Revelation on religious receiving the Eucharist
(*Diary* 1288)
Revelation on Heaven (*Diary* 1292)
Revelation on the merit of Spiritual Acts of Mercy
Revelation of the punishment of Angels
(*Diary* 1332)

1938

Revelation that Jesus speaks to souls through
priests in confession (*Diary* 1602)

TIME OF MERCY

Now is the time of Mercy, Divine Mercy.
This is the time to bring God's Mercy to all.
This is the time to be instruments of God's Mercy
because Mercy is:
Kindness – Compassion – Forgiveness – Clemency
Sympathy – Tolerance – Benevolence – Charity – Love.

Mercy, such an immense and wonderful
sentiment to be expressed and demonstrated
in our daily lives, no matter who you are,
where you are, whom you talk to
nor what kind of work you do.

Mercy helps you to be tolerant with
the Senior Citizen, who does not have anyone
to talk to, and looks to you to have a small chat.

Mercy helps you to be patient with the young teenager
who has problems and is frustrated
and feels misunderstood and thinks
that no one cares nor wants to help him or her,
and you take the time to calm,
listen to the problem
and come with a solution.

Mercy helps you understand the bitter
and frustrated man or woman,

who comes to you charging with anger without realizing that is not you who she or he should be angry with.

Mercy helps you to be patient with someone, whom you try to teach something and does not seem to understand.

Mercy gives you the strength to be patient and loving with the sick.

It is easy to love someone who is nice to you, but it is Mercy that helps you to be nice to someone who is angry, frustrated, disheartened, confused, bitter, or just plain lonely.

It takes Mercy to be patient and keep your serenity no matter how difficult a situation is, and if you find yourself losing control appeal to the greatest Mercy of all, "God's Mercy".

When you treat people with Mercy, God rewards you with His Immense Love and Mercy.

Lelis Cruzata, *Time of Mercy*
Los Angeles, 2003

The Year 2020 is the year of the 100 Anniversary of Saint John Paul II's Birth. And I am reading again the Encyclical Letter of Saint John Paul II about God's Mercy – *Dives in misericordia*. I am reading the 5th chapter dedicated to the Paschal Mystery: *Mercy revealed in the Cross and Resurrection*. This is what I read: "What does the Cross of Christ say to us (...)? Speaks and never ceases to speak of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man, since He 'so loved the world' – therefore man in the world – that "he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16) Believing in the crucified Son means 'seeing the Father,' (cf. Jn 14:9) means believing that love is present in the world and that this love is more powerful than any kind of evil in which individuals, humanity, or the world are involved. Believing in this love means believing in mercy. For mercy is an indispensable dimension of love; it is as it were love's second name and, at the same time, the specific manner in which love is revealed and effected vis-a-vis the reality of the evil that is in the world, affecting and besieging man, insinuating itself even into his heart and capable of causing him to "perish in Gehenna." (Cf. Mt 10:28) (*Dives in Misericordia*, 7-8)

And so I keep reading about love, more powerful than death, more powerful than sin: "In the eschatological fulfillment mercy will be

revealed as love, while in the temporal phase, in human history, which is at the same time the history of sin and death, love must be revealed above all as mercy and must also be actualized as mercy. Christ's messianic program, the program of mercy, becomes the program of His people, the program of the Church." (*Dives in Misericordia*, 7-8)

What is the conclusion of my reading during this special year, the Centennial Anniversary of Saint John Paul II The Great's Birth?

This is the conclusion: Christ's Messianic Program for His church is "a Program of Mercy!" To accept the "Program of Mercy" means to become an apostle of God's Mercy and become it more fully. The proposal becomes a binding call, an imperative of trust in the Merciful God. Our thought, speech, faithful dedication in prayers and deeds, all our attitudes and desires need to be expressed only in this one: **let Love be loved!** And the forms of worship of Divine Mercy presented by Saint Faustina are so integral and coherent that the right faith will result in orthodox worship.

I explained it to myself so that I can become an apostle of God's Mercy, and I encourage to all who in the Universal Church, in Hollywood and everywhere, to thank God and ask Saint John Paul II for his intercession for us and the whole world. Jesus, I trust in You.

Fr. George J. Bobowski

The quotes in this Book come from:

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Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press. 2019

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Pope Francis
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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
<http://www.usccb.org/>

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We strongly believe that it was God's will to bring the devotion to His Mercy to Hollywood. Now is the Time of Mercy, Divine Mercy. This is the time to bring God's mercy to all.

Here in Los Angeles, there are thousands and thousands of people devoted to Divine Mercy. The Shrine of Divine Mercy at Christ the King Parish in Hollywood is a place of solace, of prayer and contemplation of the most important truths of our faith, the truth of Divine Mercy, but it also contains the steps to heaven, where we will always venerate God in His Mercy.

Fr. George J. Bobowski
Lelis Cruzata