

CHRIST THE KING PARISH
CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY
COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER BOOK



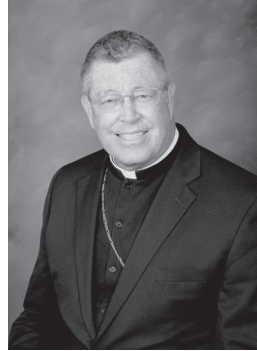
TOTUS TUUS

October 14 & 15, 2017

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Los Angeles
October 14 & 15, 2017



September 5, 2017

Dear Christ the King Family,

In a spirit of joy and thanksgiving I join with all of you, the parishioners of Christ the King Parish, in giving glory to God as you celebrate this historical event in the life of your parish. This is a significant moment when all who call this parish home come together to consecrate your parish and yourselves to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We can best give thanks to God for His presence among us and by honoring His Mother, Mary who fills us with her great and maternal love.

It is my wish on this Consecration Weekend that all of you, the parishioners of Christ the King Parish, continue to be a living example of the People of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, ever conscious of your Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

May your parish community continue its mission of worship, evangelization and service in the years to come under the guidance of Mary, and may God's abundant grace and blessing be with you today and always.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Wm. Clark". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Most Reverend Edward Wm. Clark
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles
Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region

5 de Septiembre, 2017


Querida Familia de Christ the King,

En un espíritu de gozo y agradecimiento me uno a todos ustedes, feligreses de la Parroquia de Christ the King, para darle gloria a Dios mientras ustedes celebran este evento histórico en la vida de su parroquia. Este es un momento significativo cuando todos ustedes, que llaman a esta parroquia su hogar, se unen para consagrarse junto con la parroquia a Jesús a través del Inmaculado Corazón de María. Esta es la mejor manera que podemos agradecer a Dios por Su presencia entre nosotros y honrando a Su Madre María, quien nos llena con su gran amor maternal.

Es mi deseo que este fin de semana de Consagración, todos ustedes, los feligreses de la parroquia Christ the King, continúen siendo un vivo ejemplo del Pueblo de Dios, llenos del Espíritu Santo, siempre conscientes de su Consagración a Jesús a través de María.

Que la comunidad de su parroquia continúe su misión de adoración, evangelización y servicio en los años venideros bajo la guía de María, y que la abundante gracia de Dios y su bendición este con ustedes hoy y siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo Jesús,



Su Excelencia Edward Wm. Clark
Obispo Auxiliar de Los Ángeles
Región Pastoral de Nuestra Señora de Los Ángeles

My Dearly Beloved of Jesus and Mary,

I am so delighted to introduce to you this Prayer Book commemorating Christ the King Parish Consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. October 14th & 15th 2017 marks a special historical time when the Parish Mission of Christ the King, and all who have, do, and all the members of the Parish have heeded the call of Jesus from the cross to take His mother into our homes and hearts – “John, Behold your Mother.” (Jn. 19:27). It is also in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the prophetic apparitions at Fatima that we have heeded one of the main messages of Our Lady, namely, to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary has been done by countless Catholics including St Pope John Paul II who had an especially intimate devotion to Mary, the Mother of God as his Papal Motto reflected – “Totus Tuus” (Totally Yours).

Consecration means to set aside something or someone and ENTRUST them to a sacred purpose. Mary’s life was set aside and entrusted to God for the sole purpose of serving our Lord. We also entrust ourselves to Mary, not because she is God, rather as our advocate and intercessor. Mary is, as the St. Louis Grignon de Montfort has said, the easiest, surest, safest, and most perfect way to an intimate union with her son Jesus Christ. I like to say that Mary is the ultimate spiritual director because her will is perfectly aligned with God’s Will – Mary’s “Thy Will Be Done” beautifully expresses this.

“Consecration to the Mother of God,” says Pope Pius XII, “is a total gift of self, for the whole of life and for all eternity; and a gift which is not a mere formality or sentimentality, but effectual, comprising the full intensity of the Christian life – Marian life.” This consecration, the Pope explained, “tends essentially to union with Jesus, under the guidance of Mary.”

October 14 & 15 2017, Christ the King Parish Consecration Weekend, marks not the end but just the beginning of entrusting our parish mission and individual lives and families to Mary, the Mother of God – The Mother of Mercy. As we all move forward from this glorious weekend celebration, may you do these three things to deepen your love for Mary, the “spouse of the Holy Spirit” and the effects of grace received from this consecration: 1) RENEW your consecration at least annually, if not through a brief daily renewal prayer; 2) Embrace a MARIAN ATTITUDE or as St. Maximilian Kolbe says, “to perform all our actions with Mary, having habitual recourse to her so as to become an instrument in Mary’s hands for the greater glory of her Son, Jesus Christ and God, the Father”; and 3) PRACTICE MARIAN DEVOTIONS, above all the rosary.

We have compiled this book of prayers to help you in continuing your commitment to Jesus Christ with the love of Mary at your side! May you and your loved ones be blessed, now and forever more! May Mary’s Immaculate Heart Triumph (Rev. 12) and PRAISE BE TO JESUS CHRIST forever and ever – Amen!

Fr. Don Woznicki

Mis Queridos Amados de Jesús y María,

Tengo el gusto de presentarles este Libro de Oración que conmemora la consagración de la parroquia Christ the King a Jesús a través del Inmaculado Corazón de María. El 14 y 15 de Octubre del 2017 marca un momento histórico especial cuando la misión parroquial de Christ the King, y todos sus miembros, han escuchado el llamado de Jesús desde la cruz para llevar a su madre a nuestros hogares y corazones – “Juan, he aquí tu Madre.” (Juan 19:27). Es también que celebrando el centenario de las apariciones proféticas en Fátima, que hemos escuchado uno de los mensajes principales de Nuestra Señora, específicamente, que nos consagremos al corazón inmaculado de María.

La consagración a Jesús a través de María ha sido hecha por incontables católicos, incluyendo al Papa San Juan Pablo II, quien tuvo una devoción especialmente íntima a María, la Madre de Dios como refleja su lema papal – “Totus tuus” (Totalmente suyo).

La consagración significa dejar a un lado algo o alguien y CONFIARLOS a un propósito sagrado. La vida de María fue puesta a un lado y confiada a Dios con el único propósito de servir a Nuestro Señor. También nosotros nos confiamos a María, no porque ella es Dios, sino como nuestra defensora e intercesora. Y como dijo San Louis Grignon de Montfort, “María es el camino más fácil, seguro, y el mas perfecto para una unión íntima con su hijo Jesucristo”. Me gusta decir que María es la directora espiritual suprema porque su voluntad está perfectamente alineada con la de Dios. La expresión de María “Hágase tu voluntad” bellamente manifiesta esto.

“La consagración a la Madre de Dios”, dice el Papa Pío XII, “es un don total de sí, para toda la vida y por toda la eternidad; no es un don puramente formal o sentimental, sino efectivo, que contiene la intensidad completa de la vida cristiana – la vida Mariana”. Esta consagración, explicó el Papa, “tiende esencialmente a la unión con Jesús, bajo la guía de María”.

El fin de semana de consagración de la Parroquia de Christ the King los días 14 y 15 de Octubre del 2017, no es el fin, sino el principio de confiar nuestra misión parroquial, nuestras vidas individuales y nuestras familias a María, la Madre de Dios – la Madre de Misericordia. A medida que todos avanzamos de esta gloriosa celebración de fin de semana, hagan estas tres cosas para profundizar su amor por María, la “esposa del Espíritu Santo” y los frutos de la gracia recibida en esta consagración: 1) RENEVA tu consagración por lo menos anualmente, sino lo haces a través de una oración corta de renovación diaria; 2) Adopta una ACTITUD MARIANA o, como dice San Maximiliano Kolbe, “realizar todas nuestras acciones con María, recurriendo a ella de manera habitual, para que nos convirtamos en instrumentos en manos de María para la mayor gloria de su Hijo Jesucristo y Dios el padre”; y 3) PRACTICA LAS DEVOCACIONES MARIANAS, sobre todo el rosario.

¡Hemos recopilado este libro de oraciones para ayudarle a continuar su compromiso con Jesucristo con el amor de María a su lado! Que ustedes y sus seres queridos sean bendecidos, ahora y por siempre. Que el Corazón Inmaculado de María Triunfe (Apocalipsis 12) y LA ALABANZA SEA PARA JESUCRISTO por los siglos de los siglos – ¡Amén!

Padre Don Woznicki

FATIMA CONSECRATION – CHRONOLOGY

History of the Consecration and Related Events

- July 13, 1917 Our Lady at Fatima promises to „come and ask the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart”
- June 13, 1929 Our Lady fulfills her promise, asking „for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, promising its conversion through this means and the hindering of the propagation of its errors.”
- December 1940 Sr. Lucia writes letter to Pius XII, saying that Our Lord Himself requests the Pope to „consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention for Russia, and order that all the Bishops of the world do the same in union with Your Holiness.”
- 1956 The vows of King Jan Kazimierz were renewed at Jasna Gora on the 300th anniversary of the time when he, after a period referred to as one of deluge (the seventeenth-century Swedish invasion), proclaimed the Mother of God Queen of the Polish Kingdom.
- May 3, 1966 At Jasna Gora, the Cardinal Primate with the Polish Episcopate pronounced an act of Poland by giving themselves to the Mother of God, „in your maternal slavery of love”, to serve the great cause of the freedom of the Church not only in their own homeland but in the whole world.
- August 31, 1980 Solidarity emerged on August 31, 1980 in Gdańsk, Poland at the Lenin Shipyards when the communist government of Poland signed the agreement allowing for its existence.
- March 25, 1984 In St. Peter’s Square, before the official statue of Our Lady of Fatima, Saint John Paul II made a solemn entrustment of the world to Mary’s Immaculate Heart.
- August 29, 1989 Sr. Lucia affirms in correspondence that the consecration „has been accomplished”, including satisfying Our lady’s request for the consecration of Russia, and that „God will keep His word.”
- November 9, 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of the fall of the Soviet totalitarian regime for which it symbolized.
- Oct. 14 & 15, 2017 **CHRIST THE KING PARISH IN HOLLYWOOD consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

The act of consecration or entrustment to Mary, to which the history of Christian devotion to the Blessed Mother offers rich and stirring attestation, finds its foundation in the words of the crucified Savior directed to his Disciple: “Behold, your Mother” (John 19:27). Saint John Paul II explains: “At the foot of the Cross there begins that special entrusting of humanity to the Mother of Christ, which in the history of the Church has been practiced and expressed in different ways” (*Redemptoris Mater*, 45). In a manner typical of the Gospel of John, Jesus’ testament from the cross expresses both Jesus’ human affectionate concern for his Mother – leaving this world, he entrusts Her to the care and protection of his disciple – and the new theological reality, namely, the universal motherhood of Mary. Designated by the mysterious title “Woman” – “Woman, behold your son” (John 19:26) – Mary assumes the role of the new Eve. With her exemplary faith, Mary reverses Eve’s disobedience and opens to all the way to life. The Beloved Disciple, and thus all those who consider themselves the disciples of Jesus, are to take Mary “into their own” (*eis ta idia*, John 19:27), that is, into the most intimate realities of their lives. The devotion known as consecration to Mary grows out of the biblical soil.

Just like the person of Mary, so the act of entrustment to Her, cannot be understood apart from the redemptive work of her Son. Saint John Paul II expressed this very clearly when on March 25, 1984, while pronouncing the *Consecration of All Individuals and Peoples of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, he said: “Behold, as we stand before you, Mother of Christ, before your Immaculate Heart, we desire, together with the whole Church, to unite ourselves with the consecration which, for love of us, your Son made of himself to the Father: ‘For their sake’, he said, ‘I consecrate myself that they also may be consecrated in the truth’ (John 17:19). We wish to unite ourselves with our Redeemer in this his consecration for the world and for the human race, which, in his divine Heart, has the power to obtain pardon and to secure reparation.” The act of consecration to the Blessed Mother is to deepen and make more effective our participation in the redemptive work of Christ. Again, the Gospel of John makes this truth evident. Jesus entrusts his Mother to John and John to his Mother (cf. John 19:26-27) so that the two can form the nascent Church. This Church now receives the Spirit of Jesus given at his death – “he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (John 19:30) – and constitutes the community where the blood and water coming out of Jesus’ pierced side (cf. John 19:34) wash and nourish believers through the sacraments of

baptism and the Eucharist. In Johannine sequence of events, entrustment to Mary is directed toward the reception of the fruits of Jesus' redemptive passion. "This self-entrusting of a child to its mother, not only has its beginning in Christ but can also be said to be definitively directed towards him" (*Redemptoris Mater*, 46).

Given the inner dynamic by which the act of entrustment is oriented toward fuller reception and assimilation of Christ's redemptive work, it is not surprising to find in the Church's reflection a strong emphasis on the connection between the act of entrustment and the sacrament of baptism. The act of consecration to Mary is a devotion that helps us to live out our baptismal commitments. The *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, promulgated by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2001, reminds us that the practice of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "should be expressed in a correct liturgical manner: to the Father, through Christ in the Holy Spirit, imploring the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom we entrust ourselves completely, so as to keep our baptismal commitments and live as her children" (204). The figure of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort could be rightly recalled at this moment, because, in the words of Saint John Paul II, Saint Louis "proposes consecration to Christ through the hands of Mary, as an effective means for Christians to live faithfully their baptismal commitments" (*Redemptoris Mater*, 48). Naturally, as a devotional practice, the act of entrustment to Mary is not an alternative to but rather a help in living out that foundational act of self-offering that has God as its object and that is "characterized by totality and perpetuity, which are guaranteed by the Church's intervention and have as their basis the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, 204).

It is the person of Mary, the Immaculate, the one fully transparent to God, the one who lives in Christ and for Christ, that guarantees Christ-centeredness of Marian devotion. The *Act of Entrustment to Mary* pronounced by John Paul II on Sunday, 8 October 2000, together with the Bishops gathered in Rome for the celebration of the Great Jubilee is very eloquent in this regard. In it, the pope speaks directly to Mary: "You are the splendor which in no way dims the light of Christ, for you exist in him and through him." Mary never obscures the light that is Christ. She is, in the vision of Revelation 12:1, "a woman clothed with the sun." She is arrayed in the true light of the world, Jesus Christ. She is radiant with his light.

The visionaries from Fatima spoke of the need for the world to be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In his theological commentary on the message of Fatima, the then Cardinal Ratzinger, explains the correct meaning of this focus on Mary's Immaculate Heart.

He states: “In biblical language, the ‘heart’ indicates the center of human life, the point where reason, will, temperament and sensitivity converge, where the person finds his unity and his interior orientation. According to Matthew 5:8, the ‘immaculate heart’ is a heart which, with God’s grace, has come to perfect interior unity and therefore ‘sees God’. To be ‘devoted’ to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means therefore to embrace this attitude of heart, which makes the *fiat* – “your will be done” – the defining center of one’s whole life.” Cardinal Ratzinger, as Pope Benedict XVI, returned to the same idea of the decisive importance of Mary’s *fiat* (her ‘yes’ to God’s will) in his *Act of Entrustment and Consecration of Priests to the Immaculate Heart of Mary* pronounced in Fatima on May 12, 2010. He prayed: “we [...] consecrate ourselves to your maternal Heart, in order to carry out faithfully the Father’s Will.” Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary leads us to the imitation of her unreserved ‘yes’ to God. It centers us on God and his will.

God’s will, to which we open and commit ourselves through the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is that we be conformed to Jesus Christ. In the same prayer just quoted, Pope Benedict XVI, calling Mary “Bride of the Holy Spirit,” asks: “Bride of the Holy Spirit, obtain for us the inestimable gift of transformation in Christ. Through the same power of the Spirit that overshadowed you, making you the Mother of the Savior, help us to bring Christ your Son to birth in ourselves too.” The Holy Spirit, who formed Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, is to form Christ in those dedicated to Mary. Pope Benedict XVI further highlights Mary’s cooperation with the Spirit when he asks Mary in the same prayer of consecration: “Repeat to the Lord your efficacious word: ‘They have no wine’ (John 2:3), so that the Father and the Son will send upon us a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” Saint John Paul II, in his *Act of Entrustment to Mary* pronounced October 8, 2000, called out to the Blessed Mother: “Receive the Spirit for us and with us, as happened in the first community gathered round you in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (cf. Acts 1:14).” The act of entrustment to Mary, the Bride of the Holy Spirit, is intended to foster our openness to and cooperation with the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, to entrust ourselves to Mary means to entrust ourselves to the Church. Pope Benedict XVI expressed it eloquently when in his Interview on April 22, 2011 he said: “The Mother is the image of the Church, the Mother Church, and entrusting ourselves to Mary means we must also entrust ourselves to the Church, live the Church, be the Church with Mary.” The act of entrustment to Mary takes us ever deeper into the Church. She who is the Mother of the Church makes those entrusted to her into the sons and daughters of the Church.

The act of consecration or entrustment to Mary remains just an external act unless it is interiorized and lived day by day. The often public and solemn pronouncement of this act must be accompanied by an inner effort to continually place one's entire life with all its hopes and joys, difficulties and desires in the hands of Our Lady. This act must be made real by imprinting itself on our attitudes and inner dispositions. It must truly become our act. The frequency with which the Roman Pontiffs entrust themselves, the Church, and the world to Mary can serve as a reminder that the act, once pronounced, must be repeated and reenacted to become ever more personal and real.

During his *Address at the Close of the Marian Month* in the Vatican Gardens on Wednesday, 31 May 2006, Pope Benedict reaffirmed that "entrustment to Our Lady is a privileged path, tested by numerous saints, for a more faithful following of the Lord." He then proceeded to state: "Consequently, let us entrust ourselves to her with filial abandonment!"

Fr. Slawomir Szkredka





**CHRIST THE KING PARISH
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

O Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, Refuge of Sinners, we consecrate our hearts and souls, our families, Christ the King Parish and all that we have to your Immaculate Heart in an act of total entrustment to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Under your protection, O Blessed Mother of God, we will walk in the light of faith and do everything as God calls us to do so that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is The Son of God, The One sent by God the Father.

In order that this consecration may be truly effective and lasting, we renew today the promises of our Baptism and Confirmation; and we undertake to live as good Christians, faithful to God, the Church and the Holy Father. We desire to pray the Rosary, partake in the Holy Eucharist, attach special importance to the first Saturday of the month and work for the conversion of sinners. Furthermore we promise, O most holy Virgin, that we will zealously spread devotion to you, so that through the intercession of your Immaculate Heart, we will be one People with Christ, giving witness to His Mercy, the power of His Resurrection, and the coming of His Kingdom, world without end. To the Most Blessed Trinity – God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit – we adore, praise and bless forever. Amen.

PARROQUIA DE CRISTO REY
ORACION DE CONSAGRACION
AL CORAZON INMACULADO DE MARIA

O Madre de Misericordia, Reyna del Cielo y de la Tierra, Refugio de Pecadores, Consagramos nuestros corazones y nuestras almas, nuestras familias, nuestra Parroquia de Cristo Rey y todo lo que tenemos, a tu Corazón Inmaculado en un acto de completa entrega a Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Bajo tu protección, O Santa Madre de Dios, caminaremos en la luz de la fe y haremos todo lo que Dios nos llama a hacer para que el mundo pueda creer que Jesucristo es el Hijo de Dios, El enviado de Dios El Padre.

Para que esta consagración pueda ser verdaderamente efectiva y duradera, renovamos hoy las promesas de nuestro Bautismo y Confirmación; Y prometemos vivir como buenos Cristianos, fieles a Dios, la Iglesia y al Santo Padre. Deseamos rezar el Rosario, participar en la Santa Eucaristía, dar importancia especial al Primer Sábado del mes y trabajar por la conversión de pecadores. Además, también prometemos, O Santa Virgen, que constantemente difundiremos tu devoción, para que a través de la intercesión de Tu Corazón Inmaculado, estemos unidos con Cristo, demos testimonio de Su Misericordia, del poder de Su Resurrección, y de la venida de Su Reino, Un Mundo sin final. A La Santa Trinidad – Dios El Padre, El Hijo Y El Espíritu Santo – Adoramos, Glorificamos y Bendecimos eternamente. Amen.

**PRAYERS TO OUR LADY
MOTHER OF MERCY**

These words of the Church at Easter re-echo in the fullness of their prophetic content the words that Mary uttered during her visit to Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah: „His mercy is...from generation to generation.” At the very moment of the Incarnation, these words open up a new perspective of salvation history. After the resurrection of Christ, this perspective is new on both the historical and the eschatological level. From that time onwards there is a succession of new generations of individuals in the immense human family, in ever-increasing dimensions; there is also a succession of new generations of the People of God, marked with the Sign of the Cross and of the resurrection and „sealed” with the sign of the Paschal Mystery of Christ, the absolute revelation of the mercy that Mary proclaimed on the threshold of her kinswoman’s house: „His mercy is...from generation to generation.”

Mary is also the one who obtained mercy in a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has. At the same time, still in an exceptional way, she made possible with the sacrifice of her heart her own sharing in revealing God’s mercy. This sacrifice is intimately linked with the cross of her Son, at the foot of which she was to stand on Calvary. Her sacrifice is a unique sharing in the revelation of mercy, that is, a sharing in the absolute fidelity of God to His own love, to the covenant that He willed from eternity and that He entered into in time with man, with the people, with humanity; it is a sharing in that revelation that was definitively fulfilled through the cross. No one has experienced, to the same degree as the Mother of the crucified One, the mystery of the cross, the overwhelming encounter of divine transcendent justice with love: that „kiss” given by mercy to justice. No one has received into his heart, as much as Mary did, that mystery, that truly divine dimension of the redemption effected on Calvary by means of the death of the Son, together with the sacrifice of her maternal heart, together with her definitive „fiat.”

Mary, then, is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God’s mercy. She knows its price, she knows how great it is. In this sense, we call her the Mother of mercy: our Lady of mercy, or Mother of divine mercy; in each one of these titles there is a deep theological meaning, for they express the special preparation of her soul, of her whole personality, so that she was able to perceive, through the complex events, first of Israel, then of every individual and of the whole of humanity, that mercy of which „from generation to generation” people become sharers according to the eternal design of the most Holy Trinity.

The above titles which we attribute to the Mother of God speak of her principally, however, as the Mother of the crucified and risen One; as the One who, having obtained mercy in an exceptional way, in an equally exceptional way „merits” that mercy throughout her earthly life and, particularly, at the

foot of the cross of her Son; and finally as the one who, through her hidden and at the same time incomparable sharing in the messianic mission of her Son, was called in a special way to bring close to people that love which He had come to reveal: the love that finds its most concrete expression vis-a-vis the suffering, the poor, those deprived of their own freedom, the blind, the oppressed and sinners, just as Christ spoke of them in the words of the prophecy of Isaiah, first in the synagogue at Nazareth and then in response to the question of the messengers of John the Baptist.

It was precisely this „merciful” love, which is manifested above all in contact with moral and physical evil, that the heart of her who was the Mother of the crucified and risen One shared in singularly and exceptionally – that Mary shared in. In her and through her, this love continues to be revealed in the history of the Church and of humanity. This revelation is especially fruitful because in the Mother of God it is based upon the unique tact of her maternal heart, on her particular sensitivity, on her particular fitness to reach all those who most easily accept the merciful love of a mother. This is one of the great life-giving mysteries of Christianity, a mystery intimately connected with the mystery of the Incarnation.

„The motherhood of Mary in the order of grace,” as the Second Vatican Council explains, „lasts without interruption from the consent which she faithfully gave at the annunciation and which she sustained without hesitation under the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. In fact, being assumed into heaven she has not laid aside this office of salvation but by her manifold intercession she continues to obtain for us the graces of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she takes care of the brethren of her Son who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home.” (Saint John Paul II, *DIVES IN MISERICORDIA*, no. 9)

MARIAN GLOSSARY

ANNUNCIATION: The visit of the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After giving her consent to God’s word, Mary became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ASSUMPTION: The dogma which recognizes the Blessed Virgin Mary’s singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection by which she was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when the course of her earthly life was finished.

HAIL MARY: The prayer known in Latin as the Ave Maria. The first part of the prayer praises God for the gifts he gave to Mary as Mother of the Re-

deemer; the second part seeks her maternal intercession for the members of the Body of Christ, the Church, of which she is the Mother.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: The dogma proclaimed in Christian Tradition and defined in 1854, that from the first moment of her conception, Mary--by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ--was preserved immune from original sin.

MAGNIFICAT: The title commonly given to the Latin text and vernacular translation of the Canticle (or Song) of Mary that she recites at the time of the visitation. The canticle begins with "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

MARY: The mother of Jesus. Because she is the mother of Jesus--Son of God and second Person of the Blessed Trinity--according to the flesh, she is rightly called the Mother of God (Theotokos). Mary is also called „full of grace,” and „Mother of the Church,” and in Christian prayer and devotion, „Our Lady,” the „Blessed Virgin Mary,” and the „New Eve.”

PRESENTATION: The presentation and dedication of Jesus to God by Mary and Joseph in the Temple (Lk 2:22-39), in accord with Mosaic Law concerning the first-born. At the Presentation, Simeon and Anna sum up the expectation of Israel for the long-awaited Messiah, the light of the nations and the glory of Israel, but also as a sign of contradiction. The presentation of the gifts, especially of bread and wine, is a preparatory rite for the liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass.

ROSARY: A prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which repeats the privileged Marian prayer Ave Maria, or Hail Mary, in „decades” of ten prayers, each preceded by the Pater Noster („Our Father”) and concluded by the Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father), accompanied by meditation on the mysteries of Christ’s life. The rosary was developed by medieval piety in the Latin church as a popular substitute for the liturgical prayer of the Hours.

VIRGIN BIRTH: The conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary solely by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church’s confession of faith in the virgin birth affirms that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit without human seed.

VIRGIN MARY: The mother of Jesus, who is honored as „ever-virgin” for her perpetual virginity.

VISITATION: At the annunciation, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of the savior. Gabriel also told Mary that her barren cousin, Elizabeth, had conceived a son in her old age. Mary went to visit her cousin and confirmed the truth of the angel’s words. The time she spent with Elizabeth is referred to as “the visitation.” (United States Conference of Bishops)

THE FOUR DOGMAS OF THE VIRGIN MARY

In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death. (Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion, Feast of the Dormition, August 15th)

The Roman Catholic Church affirms four truths concerning the role of the Virgin Mary in God's plan of salvation:

1. Mary the Mother of God: That Mary was the mother of Jesus who is God was defined as dogma at the very city where Mary had lived for several years, at the Council of Ephesus in 431AD. CCC# 495: Called in the Gospels „the mother of Jesus,” Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as „the mother of my Lord,” In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity, Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly „Mother of God (Theotokos).[Also CCC #509].

2. The perpetual virginity of Mary: The perpetual virginity of Mary of Nazareth is expressed in 3 parts: in her virginal conception of Christ; in giving birth to Christ, and her continuing virginity after His birth:

- *virginitas ante partum*: virginity before birth [CCC #396; 510]
- *virginitas in partu*: virginity during birth [CCC #510]
- *virginitas post partum*: virginity after birth [CCC #510]

The usage of this triple formula to express the fullness of this mystery of faith became standard with St. Augustan [354-430AD], St. Peter Chrysologus [c. 400-450 AD], and Pope St. Leo the Great [440-461AD]. [See CCC # 496-507;964.]

The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ's birth „did not diminish his mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it.” And so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as *Aeiparthenos*, the „Ever-virgin.” [Note: The so called „brothers” of Jesus mentioned in Scripture are His kinsmen. In Hebrew there was no designation for siblings, or half-brothers, or step-brothers. The Greek word used to designate Jesus' brothers *adelphos* is the same word used for kinsmen, brothers like St. James and John Zebedee, and all „brothers” in the faith]. [CCC #499]

3. Immaculate Conception of Mary: That Mary of Nazareth was conceived without original sin was defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854. [See CCC #491-492; 508]. From among the descendants of Eve,

God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. „Full of grace,” Mary is „the most excellent fruit of redemptions” (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life. [CCC # 508]

4. Assumption of Mary into heaven: That Mary’s body did not experience corruption but was assumed into heaven was defined as dogma by Pope Pius XII in 1950.[See CCC# 966; CCC# 974] The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son’s Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body.



HAIL MARY

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.

MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy
Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham
and to his posterity forever. (Lk 1:46-51)



THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON

(In honor of the Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of Mary)

Now, Master, You can dismiss your servant in peace;
You have fulfilled Your word.
For my eyes have witnessed Your saving deed
displayed for all the peoples to see:
A revealing light to the Gentiles,
the glory of Your people Israel. (Lk 2:29-32)

THE ROSARY

Meditations on the Rosary

The introductory prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, by reciting the holy Rosary, we are coming to You to reflect on the mysteries of Your merciful love for people. We start with the moment of Your conception in the womb of Mary, Your Mother, and end with her assumption into heaven. Increase our ability to imitate You and Your Mother in showing compassion toward others and strengthen our belief and trust that the intercession of Your Mother and our Mother will obtain for us what is promised by Your infinite mercy. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

While reflecting on each mystery, we should recite: the Our Father... 10 Hail Mary's... and the Glory Be...

Part I – The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation

“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High”... Mary said, “Behold, I am

the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:30-32, 38).

O Son of God, out of mercy for sinners You accepted a human body to hide Your majesty and omnipotence. As God, You knew that human wickedness would nail that body to the cross; nevertheless, out of love for us, You undertook to fulfill the will of the Father. O Mary, we thank you for your “fiat” which opens the way for our salvation.

2. The Visitation

“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she had entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth... Mary remained with her about three months” (Lk 1:39-40, 56).

O Mary, you are going to see your cousin Elizabeth. You endure a long and strenuous journey, and after that you devote yourself to works of mercy by taking over the household duties from St. Elizabeth. Obtain for us a heart open and willing to help all those who await our assistance. Help us to make our life a joyful song for the glory of Divine Mercy, as joyful as your Magnificat in Elizabeth’s house.

3. The Birth of the Child Jesus

“The time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2:6-7).

O Jesus, Savior of the world, laid down in the lowly manger in Bethlehem, we thank You for Your coming into the world in order to make us children of God. We adore and glorify You together with Mary and Joseph, with the angels and with the shepherds. Rather than separating us from You, let Your poverty and degradation bring us nearer to You, and make us more sensitive to the needs of our poor brethren.

4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

“Simeon...said to Mary, his mother, «Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Lk 2:34-35).

O Mary, the self-sacrificing Priestess, you brought your Child to the temple, and there you offered Him to God. The prophetic words of Simeon wounded your motherly heart and united you even more to the salvific work of Your Son. O Mother of Mercy, teach us how to sacrifice magnanimously for each great and important cause, and above all, for the salvation of souls!

5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

“Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover... As they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it... They journeyed for a day and looked for him... After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions” (Lk 2:41-46).

O Mary and Joseph, in genuine sorrow, you looked for your Son for three days. To your great joy you found him in the temple. Teach us perseverance in looking for Jesus and in finding Him in our life. Jesus teach us to value the things of God more than the things of this world.

Part II – The Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan

“After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Lk 3: 21-22).

Lord, Jesus Christ, Your baptism in the Jordan testifies to the immense grace of God's mercy which we receive in the sacrament of holy baptism. This grace makes us like You which means that we become God's children, in whom the heavenly Father takes pleasure. Our souls become God's dwelling place. Jesus, we implore You to deepen the awareness of this tremendous grace within us and to make us always act like the children of the heavenly Father.

2. Jesus Reveals His Glory at the Wedding of Cana

“On the third day there was a wedding* in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” [And] Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2: 1-5).

Merciful Jesus, this was the first miracle which revealed Your Divine power. You worked it at the request of Your mother who was concerned about the plight of the newly-weds. And She teaches us to fulfill everything You bid us, so that You can work many more miracles in our lives. We beseech You, Lord, to make us notice the needs of our neighbors, likewise Mary did, and present them to You as well as to trustfully fulfill Your will.

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

“Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness. And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Mt 9: 35-36).

Lord Jesus, through Your life, teaching and miracles You most fully revealed the mystery of God's mercy. In You, the Son of God, we can see the Father who is rich in mercy. We implore You to make

us fathom this mystery and by experiencing Your merciful love proclaim to the world the message of God's mercy with our lives and words.

4. The Transfiguration of Jesus

“About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” (Lk 9: 28-31).

Lord Jesus, in order to prepare Your disciples for Your passion and death, You first showed them Your Divine majesty at the Mount of Tabor. In Your mercy, please strengthen us too and thereby prepare us for the experience of the cross, so to ultimately transform our lives into mercy.

5. The Institution of the Eucharist

“For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in that person. (...) This is the bread which has come down from heaven; it is not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.” (Jn 6: 55-56.58).

Merciful Jesus, by instituting the Eucharist, You allow us to participate in Your passion, death and resurrection, and moreover You give us Yourself as our daily bread, so as to strengthen us on the way to the Father's home and give us eternal life. Let Your name be worshipped for the gift of Your mercy, revealed in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Make it possible for us to profit by this immense gift of Your mercy and let us become bread for our brothers.

Part III – The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden

“Kneeling, he prayed, saying, «Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done”... He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground” (Lk 22:41-44).

Merciful Jesus, in great distress You were praying, asking the Father to remove the cup of suffering if this were His will. Lord, teach us to pray in every situation and especially in suffering. Teach us to accept all from the hand of God.

2. The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar

“Pilate... again went out to the Jews and said to them, «I find no guilt in him... Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?» They cried out again, «Not this one but Barabbas!»... Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged” (Jn 18:38-40, 19:1).

O merciful Jesus, in spirit we are looking at You, tied to the pillar and cruelly scourged for our sins. Now we understand that we have been bought out from the hands of Satan not by silver or gold, but by Your priceless blood. Immaculate Lamb, give us more strength to free ourselves from the slavery of lust and sin.

3. The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns

“Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head.” (Mt 27:29-30)

O merciful Jesus, how formidable and how cruel is the wickedness of man, how limitless is the mystery of sin! Man has raised his hand against God! A creature – against its Creator and Savior! Lord Jesus, You who are patient, merciful and humble, restrain our pride, our viciousness and our desire to torment the defenseless. Teach us patience, kindness and humility!

4. Jesus Carries His Heavy Cross

“And when they had mocked him... they led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross” (Mt 27:31-32).

O suffering Jesus, man did not show You any mercy, not even a little bit; he condemned You to death, and burdened You with the heavy cross which You carried to Calvary. You carried it with great difficulty, falling under its weight, but You still found some strength to glance at your beloved Mother, to console the weeping women of Jerusalem and to reward Veronica for the courageous deed of mercy. Be with us, whenever we are weighted down by our own cross!

5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, «Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.»] ...It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon... Jesus cried out in a loud voice, «Father, into your hands I commend my spirit»; and when he had said this, he breathed his last” (Lk 23:33-34, 44-46).

O merciful Jesus, immersed in the sea of suffering, You have prayed for the executioners, You promised paradise to the repentant thief, and for us, you gave Mary as the Mother of Mercy. Your passion and death took away sin, conquered Satan and opened the gates of Heaven. You have completed the work of redemption on the cross. We thank You for this! Together with You and Your Sorrowful Mother, we want to save the sinful world through our prayer and sacrifice, so that the fullness of Your mercy may reign over all the world.

Part IV – The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Jesus

“Then the angel said to the women in reply, «Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.» ... And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them...” “Later, as the eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised.” (Mt 28:5-6,9; Mk 16:14)

O Risen Christ, Your triumph over sin and death is also our triumph over Satan and futility of life. Your joy is also our joy! This truth rouses us from our torpor, enlivens our faith in the meaning of suffering and in our resurrection. O Lord Jesus You are with us again; now we see You as the Conqueror of death, hell and Satan.

2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs”. (Mk 16:19-20)

Lord Jesus, You have left this earth to be seated at the right hand of the Father in His glory. You preceded us to the heavenly Homeland to prepare for us a place of eternal joy. Filled with trust and gratitude, we adore Your infinite mercy.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise (...) and it filled the entire house. (...) Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire (...) and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues” (Acts 2:1-4).

O Lord Jesus, You did not leave us orphans, when You left this earth, but You have sent the Spirit of Consolation, the Spirit of Truth, who leads us to “all truth” (Jn 16:13). Together with Mary, Your Mother, we persist in prayer and beg for His gifts for us and for the whole world.

4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty one has done great things for me” (Lk 1:48-49).

“When the course of her earthly life was completed Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God and always Virgin, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” (Pius XII). O Virgin Mother of God, You were the first to obtain salvation and You became the image of the Church in glory. While we are on our way to the heavenly Homeland You are for us a source of consolation and a sign of hope. O Mother of Mercy, into Your motherly hands we lay down our souls and our bodies that we may live in God’s presence forever.

5. Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“The Lord instituted her as the Queen of heaven and earth. She is exalted above all the choirs of angels and the hierarchies of saints. She stands on the right hand of her only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. She intercedes for us most powerfully by her motherly prayers, obtaining what she desires. She cannot be disappointed” (Pope Pius IX).

O Mary, you are the Mother of Christ. His kingdom lasts forever; therefore, you fully deserve the title of Queen, and it is fitting that your faithful ones adorn your images with crowns. You began as a humble maidservant of the Lord, and you became the Queen of the universe; but we know that your regal office does not consist of dominating over us, but of distributing God’s graces and imploring God’s mercy for the world. Our Queen and Mother of mercy, we join you in this prayer.

LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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 the Church, pray for us.
Mother of Mercy, 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.
Mother of Mercy, pray for us
Mother of Church. 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 families, pray for us.
Queen of Peace, pray for us.
Queen of the World, pray for us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: 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.

SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. O our Lady, our Advocate, our Mediatrix, our Consolation! Reconcile us to your Son, Commend us to your Son, Return us to your Son.

THE MEMORARE OF ST. BERNARD

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection,
implored your help or sought your
intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you,
O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother.

To you we come. Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions,
but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY, MOTHER OF MERCY

Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent! Receive our gratitude, and by your prayers obtain the pardon of our sins. Take our prayers into the sanctuary of heaven and enable them to make our peace with God.

Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the discouraged, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. May all who venerate you feel now your help and protection. Be ready to help us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual concern to pray for the people of God, for you were blessed by God and were made worthy to bear the Redeemer of the world, who lives and reigns forever. Amen. (Saint Augustine of Hippo)

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, MOTHER OF MERCY

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; our life, our sweetness and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

CHAPLET TO OUR LADY OF MERCY

(consists of three decades)

In the beginning:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy...

On the large beads:

Mary, Mother of Grace and Mother of Mercy, protect us from our enemies and receive us at the hour of death.

On the small beads:

Mary, Mother of Mercy, obtain mercy for us from your Son (10x).

Concluding Prayer:

You open your arms wide before us, Most Merciful Mother, and extend your hands filled with every grace and gift. Your motherly heart longs to bestow on us everything that we need. Encouraged by your goodness, we turn to you with confidence. Obtain for us, Mother, all that we need. But above all, by your powerful intercession to help us guard our purity, grant that we guard our chastity and innocence; that we faithfully and perseveringly nurture a childlike love toward you; and that we bear in our heart the image of your Son's Heart. May that Heart protect us, guide us, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL PRAYER

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to you. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us your children as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one ... (*Pause to recall your petition*). While you were on earth, dear Mother you willingly shared in the sufferings of your Son. Strengthened by your faith and confidence in the fatherly love of God you accepted the mysterious designs of His will. We too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry the cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection. Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always loved others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our intentions and for the intentions of all here present at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and the unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended Him. Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Hail Mary

PRAYER TO MARY FOR THE FAMILY

Mother of Perpetual Help we choose you as Queen of our homes. We ask you to bless all our families with your tender motherly love. May the Sacrament of Marriage bind husbands and wives so closely together that they will always be faithful to each other and love one another as Christ loves his Church. We ask you to bless all parents. May they love and cherish the children whom God has entrusted to them. May they always give them the example of a truly Christian life. Help them to bring up their children in the love and fear of God. Bless all children that they may love, honor and obey their fathers and mothers. To your loving care we especially entrust the youth of today. Give us all a sense of responsibility that we may do our part in making our home a haven of peace like your own home at Nazareth. We take you as our model. Help us to grow daily in genuine love of God and neighbor so that justice and peace may happily reign in the entire family of mankind. Amen.

Hail Mary

MARY, HELP OF THOSE IN NEED

Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God's people, assist the clergy, intercede for religious. Mary all who seek your help experience your unfailing protection. Amen.

MORNING CONSECRATION TO MARY

My Queen, My Mother, I offer myself entirely to you. And to show my devotion to you, I offer you this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am your own, keep me, guard me as your property and possession. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

Holy Mother of Czestochowa, you are full of grace, goodness and mercy. I consecrate to you all my thoughts, words and actions – my soul and body. I beseech your blessings and especially prayers for my salvation. Today I consecrate myself to you, good Mother, totally – with body and soul amid joy and sufferings, to obtain for myself and others your blessings on this earth and eternal life in heaven. Amen.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of Poland, pray for us.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Dear Mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your Son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives.

Help us to build a shrine in our hearts. Make it as beautiful as the one built for you on the Mount of Tepeyac. A shrine full of trust, hope, and love of Jesus growing stronger each day.

Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy self-image on Juan Diego's cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face.

Like Juan, give us the courage to bring your message of hope to everyone. You are our Mother and our inspiration. Hear our prayers and answer us. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Blessed, most pure Virgin, you chose to manifest yourself shining with life, sweetness and beauty, in the Grotto of Lourdes. To the child, St. Bernadette, you revealed yourself, „I am the Immaculate Conception.” And now, Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Healer of the Sick, Comforter of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. By your appearance in the Grotto of Lourdes, it became a privileged sanctuary from which you dispense your favors. Many have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with confidence in your maternal intercession. Obtain for me, O loving Mother, this special request. Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Christ, pray for me. Obtain from your Divine Son my special request if it be God’s will. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

O Most beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power.

O show me herein you are my mother. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. (*three times*)

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. (*three times*)

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

O Most Holy Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ: by the overwhelming grief you experienced when you witnessed the martyrdom, the crucifixion, and the death of your divine Son, look upon me with eyes of compassion and awaken in my heart a tender commiseration for those sufferings, as well as a sincere detestation of my sins, in order that, being disengaged from all undue affections for the passing joys of this earth, I may long for the eternal Jerusalem, and that henceforth all my thoughts and all my actions may be directed toward this one most desirable object. Honor, glory, and love to our Divine Lord Jesus, and to the Holy and Immaculate Mother of God. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Most Glorious Virgin, you were chosen by the eternal Counsel to be the Mother of the Eternal Word made flesh. You are the treasurer of divine graces and the advocate of sinners. I who am your most unworthy servant have recourse to you. Graciously be my guide and counselor in this valley of tears.

Obtain for me, through the Precious Blood of your Divine Son, the forgiveness of my sins, the salvation of my soul, and the means necessary to obtain it. In like manner, obtain for the Holy Church victory over Her enemies and the spread of Jesus' kingdom over the whole earth.



ACT OF REPARATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Most Holy Virgin Mother, we listen with grief to the complaints of your Immaculate Heart surrounded with the thorns placed therein at every moment by the blasphemies and ingratitude of ungrateful humanity. We are moved by the ardent desire of loving you as Our Mother and of promoting a true devotion to your Immaculate Heart.

We therefore kneel before you to manifest the sorrow we feel for the grievances that people cause you, and to atone by our prayers and sacrifices for the offenses with which they return your love. Obtain for them and for us the pardon of so many sins. Hasten the conversion of sinners that they may love Jesus and cease to offend the Lord, already so much offended. Turn your eyes of mercy toward us, that we may love God with all our heart on earth and enjoy Him forever in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, full of goodness, show your love towards us. Let the flame of your heart,

O Mary, descend on all people. We love you immensely. Impress true love in our hearts so that we have a continuous desire for you. O Mary, gentle and humble of heart, remember us when we are in sin. You know that all men sin. Give us, by means of your Immaculate Heart, spiritual health. Let us always see the goodness of your motherly heart and may we be converted by means of the flame of your heart. Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, full of love for God and mankind, and of compassion for sinners, I consecrate myself to you. I entrust to you the salvation of my soul. May my heart be ever united with yours, so that I may hate sin, love God and my neighbor, and reach

eternal life with those whom I love. May I experience the kindness of your motherly heart and the power of your intercession with Jesus during my life and at the hour of my death. Amen.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners, I beg of you by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and by the graces God has granted to you since your Immaculate Conception, the grace of never going astray again. Mother, keep me, a sinner, constantly bathed in the light of your Immaculate Heart. Amen.

IN THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, I TRUST

Look to the Star Call upon Mary! In danger, in difficulty or in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary,

Keep her name on your lips. Never let it pass out of your heart. Following in her footsteps, you will not go astray: praying to her, you will not fall into despair: thinking of her you will not err.

While she keeps hold of your hand, you will not fall ...you will not grow weary ...you will have no fear ... Enjoying her protection, you will reach the goal.. (Saint Bernard)

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin, Help of Christians, we place ourselves under your motherly protection. Throughout the Church's history you have helped Christians in times of trial, temptation and danger. Time and time again, you have proven to be the Refuge of Sinners, the Hope of the Hopeless, the Consoler of the Afflicted, and the Comforter of the Dying. We promise to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, to proclaim His Good News of God's love for all people, and to work for peace and justice in our world. With faith in your intercession, we pray for the Church, for our family and friends, for the poor and abandoned, and all the dying.

Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces in which we stand in need. (Mention your intentions) May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen.

THE FATIMA MESSAGE

Fatima is a call from the Mother of God for a renewed fidelity to penance and prayer, which basically is the message of the Gospel. Also, it brings out the desire of Our Lord that His Mother be better known, loved and venerated through devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

[...] Is not this the case with the shrine at Lourdes, in France? Is not this the case with Jasna Gora, in Poland, my own country's shrine [...]? There too, as in so many other shrines of Mary throughout the world, the words of today's liturgy seem to resound with a particularly authentic force: „You are the great pride of our nation” (Jdt 15:9), and also: „...when our nation was brought low... you avenged our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God” (Jdt 13:20).

At Fatima these words resound; as one particular echo of the experiences not only of the Portuguese nation but also of so many other countries and peoples on this earth: indeed, they echo the experience of modern mankind as a whole, the whole of the human family.

And so I come here today because on this very day last year, in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, the attempt on the Pope's life was made, in mysterious coincidence with the anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima, which occurred on 13 May 1917. I seemed to recognize in the coincidence of the dates a special call to come to this place. And so, today I am here. I have come in order to thank Divine Providence in this place which the Mother of God seems to have chosen in a particular way. *Misericordiae Domini, quia non sumus consumpti* (Through God's mercy we were spared – Lam 3:22), I repeat once more with the prophet. I have come especially in order to confess here the glory of God himself: „Blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth', I say in the words of today's liturgy (Jdt 13:18). And to the Creator of heaven and earth I also raise that special hymn of glory which is she herself, the Immaculate Mother of the Incarnate Word:

„O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth... your hope will never depart from the hearts of men,

as they remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honor to you” (Jdt 18:20).

At the basis of this song of praise, which the Church lifts up with joy here as in so many other places on the earth, is the incomparable choice of a daughter of the human race to be the Mother of God. And therefore let God above all be praised: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May blessing and veneration be given to Mary, the model of the Church, as the „dwelling-place of the Most Holy Trinity”.

From the time when Jesus, dying on the Cross, said to John: „Behold, your mother”; from the time when „the disciple took her to his own home”, the mystery of the spiritual motherhood of Mary has been actualized boundlessly in history. Motherhood means caring for the life of the child. Since Mary is the mother of us all, her care for the life of man is universal. The care of a mother embraces her child totally. Mary’s motherhood has its beginning in her motherly care for Christ. In Christ, at the foot of the Cross, she accepted John, and in John she accepted all of us totally. Mary embraces us all with special solicitude in the Holy Spirit. For as we profess in our Creed, he is „the giver of life”. It is he who gives the fullness of life, open towards eternity.

Mary’s spiritual motherhood is therefore a sharing in the power of the Holy Spirit, of „the giver of life”. It is the humble service of her who says of herself: „Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” (Lk 1:38).

In the light of the mystery of Mary’s spiritual motherhood, let us seek to understand the extraordinary message, which began on 13 May, 1917 to resound throughout the world from Fatima, continuing for five months until 13 October of the same year. [...] („Mary’s Maternal Love” Homily of Bl. John Paul II – Fatima May 13, 1982 Apostolic Trip to Portugal – Mass in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Rosary)

THE REQUESTS OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY OF FATIMA

1. The Daily Rosary for Peace

„Pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace in the world . . . for she alone can save it.” (Our Lady, July 13, 1917)



Prodez

„God has placed peace in her hands, and it is from the Immaculate Heart that men must ask it.” (Jacinta, shortly before her death)

„When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: ‚O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy.’” (June 13, 1917) (Every Rosary increases Mary’s power to crush the head of the Serpent and to destroy his evil power in the world.)

2. Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

„Jesus wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it.” (June 13, 1917)

a. FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION, which include:

- reception of Holy Communion, and Confession (within 8 days before or after)
- pray five decades of the Rosary
- spend 15 minutes in meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary.

(All the above to be offered up in reparation for sins and ingratitude against the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady.)

b. OFFERING IN REPARATION THE SACRIFICES, TRIALS AND CROSSES OF LIFE, especially those sacrifices involved in keeping God’s Commandments, and in fulfilling the duties of one’s state in life – offering them through the Immaculate Heart of Mary in reparation to the Divine Majesty so offended by sin, and for the conversion of sinners.

„Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say often whenever you make a sacrifice: ‚O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’” (Our Lady, July 13, 1917)

„Pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them.” (Our Lady, August 19, 1917)

- c. **CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.** Any formula may be used which expresses a sincere confiding of oneself without reserve.

FIVE PRAYERS TAUGHT AT FATIMA BY MARY & THE ANGELS

On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal with an urgent message for the whole world. Between May and October she would appear five more times, each on the 13th of the month.

She identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and urged the children to pray the rosary daily for peace in the world (as World War I raged on) and to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. Over the course of these visits, and several preceding visits by an angel, there were five prayers that were taught to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta.

THE PARDON PRAYER

The angel who appeared to the children called himself the Angel of Peace and the Angel of Portugal. He taught them the following prayer:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.

THE ANGEL'S PRAYER

On one occasion, the three children saw the angel prostrate before a host and chalice that hung in the air. Worshiping the Eucharist, the angel prayed,

Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit- I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world,

in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

During the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, the children found themselves “moved by an interior impulse,” as Lucia later explained, to say the following prayer together:

Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

THE SACRIFICE PRAYER

The Blessed Mother taught the children to offer all their personal sacrifices to God by praying,

Oh my Jesus, I offer this for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

THE FATIMA PRAYER

The Blessed Mother stressed the critical importance of praying the rosary daily for the conversion of sinners and for peace in the world. She asked that the following prayer be recited at the end of each rosary decade:

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your mercy.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Any formula may be used to consecrate oneself to the Mother of God, as long as it involves a total oblation of oneself. As a suggestion, one of the following consecrations could be renewed each first Saturday with the shorter formula renewed daily.

1. O Virgin Mary, most powerful Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, in accordance with your wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate myself today to your Immaculate Heart. To you I entrust all that I have, all that I am. Reign over me, dearest Mother, that I may be yours in prosperity, in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death.

Most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over my mind and heart and preserve me from the deluge of impurity which you lamented so sorrowfully at Fatima. I want to be pure like you. I want to atone for the many crimes committed against Jesus and you. I want to call down upon this country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity.

Mindful of this consecration, I now promise to strive to imitate you by the practice of the Christian virtues without regard for human respect. I resolve to receive Holy Communion on the first Saturday of every month when possible, and to offer daily five decades of the Rosary, with all my sacrifices in the spirit of penance and reparation. Amen.

2. I, . . . , a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in your Heart, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, in the presence of all the heavenly court, I choose you this day for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to you, and to your Immaculate Heart, as your child and slave of love, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to your good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen.

SHORT DAILY RENEWAL OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, I renew my consecration to you and to your Immaculate Heart. Please accept me, my dear Mother, and use me as you wish to accomplish your designs upon the world. I am all yours, my Mother, my Queen, and all that I have is yours.

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Lest there should be any misconception about the place of devotion to Mary in Catholic piety, we honor in a special way the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of Jesus, i.e., the person of Mary in her eminent sanctity and glorification by God, because it is the wish of her Son – as Our Lady revealed in her second apparition at Fatima. Jesus knows well that true devotion to His Mother leads to Him. As Pope Paul VI wrote in his encyclical celebrating the centenary of the apparitions at Lourdes:

„Everything in Mary leads us toward her Son, our only Savior, by whose foreseen merits she was preserved immaculate and full of grace; everything in Mary lifts up our hearts to the praise of the Holy Trinity.”

And as Our Lady assured Lucy, June 13, 1917:

„I will never abandon you, my child. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”

The Church sees Mary, then, not as the goal, but as the guide, who always leads souls who honor her with true devotion – to her Son, especially to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When we pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for help in time of need, she in turn points to the Tabernacle, to Him who is „the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” and has a way of conveying to us what she said to the steward at Cana: “Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2:5)

LITANY TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for our dear country.
Our Lady of Fatima, sanctify our clergy.
Our Lady of Fatima, make our Catholics more fervent.
Our Lady of Fatima, guide and inspire those who govern us.
Our Lady of Fatima, cure the sick who confide in you.
Our Lady of Fatima, console the sorrowful who trust in you.
Our Lady of Fatima, help those who invoke your aid.
Our Lady of Fatima, deliver us from all dangers.
Our Lady of Fatima, help us to resist temptation.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us all that we lovingly ask of you.
Our Lady of Fatima, help those who are dear to us.
Our Lady of Fatima, bring back to the right road our
erring brothers.
Our Lady of Fatima, give us back our ancient fervor.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and
offenses.
Our Lady of Fatima, bring all men to the feet of your Divine Child.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain peace for the world.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.

Let Us Pray:

O God of infinite goodness and mercy, fill our hearts with a
great confidence in you dear Mother, whom we invoke under the
title of Our Lady of the Rosary and our Lady of Fatima, and grant us
by her powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal,
which we need. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Sister Lucia's Peace Pledge

Our Lady made it clear to the three Fatima visionaries that world peace could be obtained through prayer and reparation of sin. She asked that the faithful adhere to the following pledge:

Dear Queen and Mother Who promised at Fatima to convert Russia and bring peace to all mankind, in reparation to Your Immaculate Heart, for my sins and the sins of the whole world, I solemnly promise:

- 1) To offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by my daily duty;
- 2) To say part of the Rosary (five decades) daily while meditating on the mysteries;
- 3) To wear the Scapular of Mount Carmel as profession of this promise and as an act of consecration to You.

I shall renew this promise often, especially in moments of temptation.

POPE FRANCIS' ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY

(Fatima, May 13, 2017)

Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima,
with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence
we join in the voice of all generations that call you blessed.

We celebrate in you the great works of God,
who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity,
afflicted by evil and wounded by sin,
to heal and to save it.

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother
this act of entrustment that we make in faith today,
before this your image, beloved to us.

We are certain that each one of us is precious in your eyes
and that nothing in our hearts has estranged you.

May we allow your sweet gaze
to reach us and the perpetual warmth of your smile.
Guard our life with your embrace:
bless and strengthen every desire for good;
give new life and nourishment to faith;
sustain and enlighten hope;
awaken and animate charity;
guide us all on the path to holiness.

Teach us your own special love for the little and the poor,
for the excluded and the suffering,
for sinners and the wounded of heart:
gather all people under your protection
and give us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus.
Amen.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE

Virgin most holy and immaculate,
to you, the honor of our people,
and the loving protector of our city,
do we turn with loving trust.
You are all-beautiful, O Mary!
In you there is no sin.
Awaken in all of us a renewed desire for holiness:
May the splendor of truth shine forth in our words,
the song of charity resound in our works,
purity and chastity abide in our hearts and bodies,
and the full beauty of the Gospel be evident in our lives.
You are all-beautiful, O Mary!

In you the Word of God became flesh.
Help us always to heed the Lord's voice:
May we never be indifferent to the cry of the poor,
or untouched by the sufferings of the sick and those in need;
may we be sensitive to the loneliness of the elderly and the vulnerability of children,
and always love and cherish the life of every human being.
You are all-beautiful, O Mary!
In you is the fullness of joy born of life with God.
Help us never to forget the meaning of our earthly journey:
May the kindly light of faith illumine our days,
the comforting power of hope direct our steps,
the contagious warmth of love stir our hearts;
and may our gaze be fixed on God, in whom true joy is found.
You are all-beautiful, O Mary!
Hear our prayer, graciously hear our plea:
May the beauty of God's merciful love in Jesus abide in our hearts,
and may this divine beauty save us, our city and the entire world.
Amen.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY UNDOER OF KNOTS

Holy Mary, full of God's presence during the day of your life, you accepted with full humility the Father's will, and the devil was never capable of tying you up with his confusion.

Once with your Son you interceded for our difficulties, and full of kindness and patience, you gave us example of how to untie the knots in our life. By remaining forever Our Mother, you put in order and make more clear the ties that link us to the Lord.

Holy Mother, Mother of God and our Mother, to you who untie with a motherly heart the knots of our life, we pray to you

to receive in your hands (the name of the person), and to free him/her of the knots and confusion with which our enemy attacks.

Through your grace, your intercession and your example deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God, so that we, free from sin and error, may find Him in all things, may have our hearts placed in Him, and may serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. Amen.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Hail Mary, poor and humble Woman, Blessed by the Most High! Virgin of hope, dawn of a new era, we join in your song of praise, to celebrate the Lord's mercy, to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom and the full liberation of humanity.

Hail Mary, lowly handmaid of the Lord, Glorious Mother of Christ! Faithful Virgin, holy dwelling-place of the Word, Teach us to persevere in listening to the Word, and to be docile to the voice of the Spirit, attentive to his promptings in the depths of our conscience and to his manifestations in the events of history.

Hail Mary, Woman of sorrows, Mother of the living! Virgin spouse beneath the Cross, the new Eve, Be our guide along the paths of the world. Teach us to experience and to spread the love of Christ, to stand with you before the innumerable crosses on which your Son is still crucified.

Hail Mary, woman of faith, First of the disciples! Virgin Mother of the Church, help us always to account for the hope that is in us, with trust in human goodness and the Father's love. Teach us to build up the world beginning from within: in the depths of silence and prayer, in the joy of fraternal love, in the unique fruitfulness of the Cross.

Holy Mary, Mother of believers, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church! who from this place reveal your clemency and your pity to all those who ask for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer.

Mother of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you, who come to meet us sinners, we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities and our sorrows. Grant peace, justice and prosperity to our peoples; for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, our Lady and Mother. We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ in His Church; hold us always with your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the Bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. Contemplate this immense harvest, and intercede with the Lord that He may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God, and grant abundant vocations of priests and religious, strong in the faith and zealous dispensers of God's mysteries.

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children.

Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus and, if we fall, help us to rise again, to return to Him, by means of the confession of our faults and sins in the Sacrament of Penance, which gives peace to the soul.

We beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy Sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left us on earth.

Thus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

TOTALLY YOURS

Prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe
and recited by Saint John Paul II

Immaculate Conception, Mary, my Mother. Live in me. Act in me. Speak in and through me.

Think your thoughts in my mind. Love, through my heart. Give me your dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide me to Jesus. Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts and behavior. Possess my soul. Take over my entire personality and life. Replace it with yourself. Incline me to constant adoration and thanksgiving. Pray in me and through me. Let me live in you and keep me in this union always.

PRAYER OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II TO OUR LADY OF THE DIVINE LOVE

Hail, oh Mother, Queen of the world. You are the Mother of fair Love .

You are the Mother of Jesus, the source of all grace,
the perfume of every virtue,
the mirror of all purity.

You are joy in weeping, victory in battle, hope in death.
How sweet your name tastes in our mouth,
how harmoniously it rings in our ears,
what rapture it brings to our hearts!

You are the happiness of the suffering, the crown of martyrs,
the beauty of virgins.
We beg you, guide us after this exile to possession of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.

SAINT FAUSTINA'S PRAYERS

MARY, MY MOTHER

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).

MARY, IMMACULATE VIRGIN

O Mary, Immaculate Virgin,
Pure crystal for my heart,
You are my strength, O secure anchor,
You are a shield and protection for a weak heart.

O Mary, you are pure and unparalleled,
Virgin and Mother at one and the same time;
You're beautiful as the sun, by nothing defiled.
Nothing is worthy of comparison to the image of Your soul.

Your beauty enthralled the Thrice-Holy One's eye,
That He came down from heaven, forsaking the eternal See's throne,
And assumed from Your Heart body and Blood,
Hiding for nine months in the Virgin's Heart.

O Mother, Virgin, this will no one comprehend,
That the infinite God is becoming a man;
It's only love's and His inscrutable mercy's purpose.
Through You, Mother – it's given us to live with Him for ever.

O Mary, Virgin Mother and Heaven's Gate,
Through You salvation came to us;
Every grace to us streams forth through Your hands,
And faithful imitation of You only will sanctify me.

O Mother, Virgin – most beautiful Lily.
Your Heart was for Jesus the first tabernacle on earth,
And that, because Your humility was the deepest,
Wherefore You were raised above Angel choirs and Saints.

O Mary, my sweet Mother,
To You I turn over my soul, my body and my poor heart.
Be the safeguard of my life,
Especially at death's hour, in the final fight. (*Diary* 161).

O MARY, MY MOTHER

O Mary, my Mother, I humbly beg of You, cover my soul with Your virginal cloak at this very important moment of my life, so that thus I may become dearer to Your Son and may worthily praise Your Son's mercy before the whole world and throughout all eternity (*Diary* 220).

MARY, IMMACULATE VIRGIN

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, take me under Your special protection and guard the purity of my soul, heart and body. You are the model and star of my life (*Diary* 874).

MOTHER OF GOD

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 SWEET MOTHER OF GOD

O sweet Mother of God,
I model my life on You;
You are for me the bright dawn;
In You I lose myself, enraptured.
O Mother, Immaculate Virgin,
In You the divine ray is reflected,
Midst storms, 'tis You who teach me to love the Lord,
O my shield and defense from the foe (*Diary* 1232).

SWEET MOTHER

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).

RADIANT VIRGIN

O radiant Virgin, pure as crystal, all immersed in God, I offer You my spiritual life; arrange everything that it may be pleasing to Your Son (*Diary* 844).

MOTHER OF GOD

Mother of God, Most Holy Mary, my Mother, You are my Mother in a special way now because Your beloved Son is my Bridegroom, and thus we are both Your children. For Your Son's sake, You have to love me. O Mary, my dearest Mother, guide my spiritual life in such a way that it will please Your Son (*Diary* 240).

FINAL PRAYERS

O Jesus, I understand that Your mercy is beyond all imagining, and therefore I ask You to make my heart so big that there will be room in it for the needs of all the souls living on the face of the earth.

O Jesus, my love extends beyond the world, to the souls suffering in purgatory, and I want to exercise mercy toward them by means of indulgenced prayers. God's mercy is unfathomable and inexhaustible, just as God Himself is unfathomable. Even if I were to use the strongest words there are to express this mercy of God, all this would be nothing in comparison with what it is in reality.

O Jesus, make my heart sensitive to all the sufferings of my neighbor, whether of body or of soul.

O my Jesus, I know that You act toward us as we act toward our neighbor. My Jesus, make my heart like unto Your merciful Heart. Jesus, help me to go through life doing good to everyone (*Diary* 692)

Jesus, make my heart like unto Yours, or rather transform it into Your own Heart that I may sense the needs of other hearts, especially those who are sad and suffering. May the rays of mercy rest in my heart. (*Diary* 514)

HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF OSTRA BRAMA – OUR LADY OF MERCY

The original of the holy image of Our Lady of Ostra Brama is housed in the chapel of the Dawn Gate of Vilnius, Lithuania.

The original painting is 163 x 200 cm and was painted by an unknown artist on 8 oak planks around 1630. It was covered with silver and gold around 1671. The head of Our Lady is adorned with two crowns. Two little angels lower the crown with colored glass inlays upon the smaller crown. The two crowns, made of pure gold, were blessed by Pope Pius XI in 1927. On July 2, 1927 a coronation ceremony took place and the painting received the title of Mother of Mercy.

The painting is an unusual portrayal of Mary since she is depicted without the infant Jesus.

The painting depicts the many facets of Mary. Her head is gently leaning to her right, her eyes are half closed, her hands are crossed in devotion. This reminds us that she is a virgin, humble servant of the Lord, merciful mother and patron of the people. At the same time, her head is surrounded by sun rays and her body is covered in elaborate gold and silver clothes and crowns. These are the symbols of her divine and majestic role as the Queen of Heaven.

The history of Our Lady of the Dawn, who is also known as Our Lady of Ostra Brama, begins in 1386. In that year prince Władysław Jagiełło (1351 – 1434) of Lithuania married the Polish princess Jadwiga. As part of the contract for marriage Jagiełło pledged the conversion of the Lithuanian people to Christianity. The marriage resulted in the joining of Poland and Lithuania into a Commonwealth of Nations. With the advent of Christianity, Marian devotions were introduced by princess Jadwiga.

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (or The Commonwealth of the Two Nations, *Rzeczpospolita Obojha Narodów* in Polish) was a federal monarchy-republic formed by the Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Lithuania and which was governed by an elected monarch.

Due to frequent attacks on the Lithuanian lands from the Tatars and regular conflicts with the Grand Duchy of Moscow, in 1503 Grand Duke Alexander of Lithuania granted the city of Vilnius a privilege to build fortifications of brick and stone around the entire city. The Gate of Dawn was built between 1503 and 1522 as a part of these defensive fortifications for the city of Vilnius. It has also been known as the *Medininkai Gate*, as it led to the village *Medininkai* south of Vilnius. In the Lithuanian language this gate was commonly known as '*Auros Vartai*' (the gate of dawn). The Polish speaking population knew it as '*Ostra Brama*' (the sharp gate).

Of the nine city gates, only the Gate of Dawn remains, while the others were destroyed.

Above each of the gates the people of the town placed an image of the Blessed Virgin. In the 16th century city gates often contained religious artifacts intended to guard the city from attacks and to bless travelers. About a century later, the Carmelite Order took over one of the parish churches in the vicinity of the southeastern gate of the town.

In 1655 the army of Moscow set fire to the city of Vilnius and most of the town was destroyed. The fire lasted seventeen days. However, the image above the *Ostra Brama* gate survived without any damage. This strongly encouraged the people's devotion toward it and attracted many pilgrims.



Since then it is considered a miraculous symbol of Lithuanian and Polish independence.

Between 1671 and 1761 seventeen more miracles attributed to the Lady in this image were chronicled. One story tells of a boy who fell from the second floor of a building and died. When his mother prayed before Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn he revived.

In 1702, when Swedes occupied Vilnius, it was forbidden to worship the icon publicly and to gather in the street. During the liberation fight of the gates, the icon of Our Lady was damaged by a shot. In 1711 the Chapel holding the image burned completely, but not before the miraculous painting was carried out of the fire by a young monk. For 20 years, the painting resided in the Church of St. Teresa. A new Chapel was subsequently built by the gate and the miraculous painting was reinstalled with great ceremony.

In 1799 Russian forces began to destroy the walls and gates of Vilnius. Inexplicably the Ostra Brama gate was left untouched.

In 1829, the chapel took on the style of the late Classicism. The chapel was built so that the faithful could pray in front of it in the street, because the entrance to the chapel was from the monastery's garden, and lay people, especially women, were not allowed to enter there. During the reconstruction work in 1828-1829, the side windows were enlarged to reach the floor level.

The chapel was renovated in 1931-1932. During the Second World War and the Nazi German occupation of Lithuania the Archbishop of Vilnius decided that the miraculous picture should stay in the town. During the Russian communist occupation of Lithuania the chapel of Ostra Brama remained open.

On September 4, 1993 Pope John Paul II said Rosary at the Gate of Dawn Chapel.

On October 15, 2017 thanks to the Divine Mercy Ministry at Christ the King Parish and the Lay Institute of Divine Mercy, the exact copy of the Icon of Our Lady of Mercy is enthroned in a separate chapel in Christ the King Church in Hollywood.

PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD OF OSTRABRAMA MOTHER OF MERCY

“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 (79). Fortify my soul that pain will not break it. Mother of grace, teach me to live by God’s power (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 (915).”



**THE DEVOTION
TO THE DIVINE MERCY**

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

Franciszek Cardinal Macharski

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 Rev. 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 if 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

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 of.

„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 no less than 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. 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” (R17).

THE DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY

In The Forms Handed Down By Sister Faustina

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

„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

„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 whomsoever 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

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” (*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 alternatives here:

- 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” (*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” (*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).

„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

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 *Diary* 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” (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).

Pope 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

There are 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 worshippers 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.

Fr. George J. Bobowski



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JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

How to Recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy?

The Chaplet of 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

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

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with 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.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; 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:

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 (Say 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 1209-1229)

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. It is to begin on Good Friday. 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.

(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.

(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.

(Divine Mercy Chaplet)

* In the original text, St. Faustina uses the pronoun „us” since she was offering this prayer as a consecrated religious sister. The wording adapted here is intended to make the prayer suitable for universal use.

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.

(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

* Our Lord's original words here were „the pagans.” Since the pontificate of Pope John XXIII, the Church has seen fit to replace this term with clearer and more appropriate terminology.

** Our Lord's original words here were „heretics and schismatics,” since He spoke to Saint Faustina within the context of her times. As of the Second Vatican Council, Church authorities have seen fit not to use those designations in accordance with the explanation given in the Council's Decree on Ecumenism (n.3). Every pope since the Council has reaffirmed that usage. Saint Faustina herself, her heart always in harmony with the mind of the Church, most certainly would have agreed. When at one time, because of the decisions of her superiors and Father confessor, she was not able to execute Our Lord's inspirations and orders, she declared: „I will follow Your will insofar as You will permit me to do so through Your representative. O my Jesus, I give priority to the voice of the Church over the voice with which You speak to me” (*Diary*, 497). The Lord confirmed her action and praised her for it.

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.

(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 grace. 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.
(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

* The text leads one to conclude that in the first prayer directed to Jesus, Who is the Redeemer, it is „victim” souls and contemplatives that are being prayed for; those persons, that is, that voluntarily offered themselves to God for the salvation of their neighbor (see Col 1:24; 2 Cor 4:12). This explains their close union with the Savior and the extraordinary efficacy that their invisible activity has for others. In the second prayer, directed to the Father from whom comes „every worthwhile gift and every genuine benefit,” we recommend the „active” souls, who promote devotion to The Divine Mercy and exercise with it all the other works that lend themselves to the spiritual and material uplifting of their brethren.

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.

(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.

(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.

(Divine Mercy Chaplet)

* To understand who are the souls designated for this day, and who in the *Diary* are called ‚lukewarm,‘ but are also compared to ice and to corpses, we would do well to take note of the definition that the Savior Himself gave to them when speaking to St. Faustina about them on one occasion: There are souls who thwart My efforts (1682). Souls without love or devotion, souls full of egoism and selfishness, proud and arrogant souls full of deceit and hypocrisy, lukewarm souls who have just enough warmth to keep themselves alive: My Heart cannot bear this. All the graces that I pour out upon them flow off them as off the face of a rock. I cannot stand them because they are neither good nor bad (1702).



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 use 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, repeat 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 recitation of the chaplet of Divine Mercy

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).

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.

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 TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

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 (79). Fortify my soul that pain will not break it. Mother of grace, teach me to live by God's power (*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)

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).

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.

**PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES
THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF
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 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. Amen.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mary takes us through the Stations of the Cross.

Let us Join Mary for a reflection on the Stations, as she guides us through the Stations through her eyes then, and through her eyes now.

The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

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

My Son stood before Pilate as an innocent man. But, throughout his life he entered more and more deeply into the condition of sinful flesh. It was not enough that he was born of a human mother like me. He grew up in obscurity in Nazareth. And, they always judged him there. They always judged that it wasn't right that he was conceived before Joseph and I were married. Even when he began his public ministry, the religious leaders didn't accept him. His reflection of God didn't fit their self-serving picture of God. Finally, his own followers abandoned him. I never imagined he would have to experience solidarity with prisoners beaten and tortured, but he did. I'll never forget the blood he shed and the pain he experienced at the hands of the Roman guards. Jesus began this journey by becoming one with every powerless person, mocked and made fun of by others. He did nothing that deserves capital punishment, or the abuse he was given.

His “yes” – his surrender to God’s will – ultimately destroyed the power of sin and death. While he was growing up, I told him many times how I had been graced to say “let it be done to me, according to your word.” I never could have imagined that this would be the sword that would ultimately pass through my heart: to watch my Son say Yes to God, so completely and fully, for the salvation of the world.

Now that he is condemned to death, reflect with me on each station of his journey – entering more and more completely into our humanity and death itself. Let us ask for God’s grace to be with him and to accompany him on his journey to more fully understand it and be more fully grateful for its gift.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross.

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

My Son was forced to carry the cross on which he would be nailed, ridiculed and executed. We must pause here to remember what it represents. For this journey, he takes up the weight of all of our crosses, all of our senseless suffering, and the weight of all the sins in the world – past, present and future. Each step he took cut deeply into his already battered shoulders. I couldn’t believe he could manage even a few steps.

We can look back now and remember that this is all for us. Each of us can say it was “for me.” As we imagine each step he takes, we can pause now to say “thank you,” in our own words, deep in our hearts.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time.

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

I can barely express to you what it was like to see my Son fall under the weight of that cross. Everything within me wanted to make them stop. This was already too much. But, there was nothing I could do but watch him lay on the ground.

Of course, I now know that if he was to enter completely into our lives, he would have to surrender to the crushing weight of the burdens so many in their world suffer. All the people of the earth who are overcome by unfair burdens will always know that, laying there on the ground, Jesus knew and would always understand their powerlessness. Unable to get himself up, he entered into and forever understands our fatigue and whatever unfairly defeats us.

I understand your sorrow and feeling of guilt at reflecting upon my Son's way to Calvary. Please, just be grateful. My Son simply wants us to remember how he loved then and loves us now. This is all about his mercy and the gift of life we have in him.

– Mary, Mother of Mercy

– Pray for Us!

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother.

– We adore you, Oh Christ, and we bless you,

– Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

As I pushed and shoved to move through the crowds to be as close to my Son as I could, we came to a place in the road where he stopped. He saw me. And we looked into each other's eyes. I didn't want him to see my tears or know my pain, but I long ago accepted how thoroughly he knew me. The love from my heart poured out in the only embrace I could give him. My lips quietly said the prayer he taught us: "Father, may your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." He nodded so slightly, took a deep breath and moved on up the hill. The sword passing through my heart had blessed his mission, and I knew he knew it.

Thank him with me, even now, that he took up that mission for us. Thank him that he has tasted the separation and loss that every person in the world knows who has lost a loved one.

And, he has understood the heart of every loving mother who grieves at the suffering of her children. He has become so completely one with us.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross.

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

Now reflect with me on what it must have been like for my Son to simply not be able to carry the cross any further alone. I was so relieved that he was getting help at the time, even though my heart went out to Simon who was drawn into Jesus' journey.

As we look back, we can give thanks that Jesus entered into our life, even in this gesture of help. Jesus came to know the experience of all of us who must depend upon others, who can't make it alone. Even in this final journey, Jesus would not even have the satisfaction of being able to do this on his own.

Let's pause for a moment to express to him now, whatever is in our hearts.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Sixth Station: 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.

I can't describe his face, with the blood and the sweat, and the bruises and swelling from the beatings. As a mother, I can hardly tell you that there was even spit on his face. It was the face of solidarity with all who have ever experienced abuse and violence. Then, out of the crowd came a woman whose compassion for my Son was so great that she pushed passed the Roman soldiers and wiped his face with her veil. Oh, how I loved her for that. The look between

them touched me deeply. His clean face, for a moment, revealed the loving face of the Son I loved.

As he smiled at the woman and continued on the journey, those of us nearby looked at her veil and saw the gift he gave her. There on her veil was a stunning likeness, a true icon of the cost of his sacrifice and the depth of his solidarity with all who suffer. This image is his gift to us forever, to always contemplate his likeness, his union with us in our worst rejection and suffering.

As you remember with me how his face was so covered with punishment and violence, let us give thanks for his solidarity with us in every aspect of our lives.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time.

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

When my Son fell the second time, my heart sank as he seemed to just lose control and stumble and crumble to the ground. The way he fell to his knees on the hard stones, I could feel the jarring pain through my whole body. Helpless to help him, I again wondered if he could make it.

As I look back with you today, I imagine that this fall placed him together with people with disabilities, with people suffering from all kinds of physical diseases that weaken them, and with all who are aging and must confront the limits of their bodies. My prayer is that all God's people who know the suffering of these disabilities might know that they can always turn to my Son for understanding and comfort.

With gratitude in our hearts, lets take a few moments to find the words to express our feelings to him.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.

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

This moving scene filled my mother's heart with even more love for him. As I had seen him comfort so many groups of people during his life, now he comforts this group of women and children in Jerusalem. They aren't here to condemn him. What a remarkable meeting. They try to comfort him, as he looks on them with love and compassion. During his ministry he had come to grieve for Jerusalem. Now, my son gives them a special mission. Soon they would understand that this suffering they witnessed so closely was for them. Soon they would witness the suffering of Jerusalem and have their chance to bring their compassion and faith to their children and the people of their city.

It is good to reflect here, with him, on the mission each of us has that can be shaped by this encounter with his suffering, death and resurrection "for me." Thank him for this brief time to recall the gift we have received.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time.

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

I will always remember this final fall. Having endured such a beating and having lost so much blood, my son simply collapses. I saw him lay there on the ground and I thought he was dead. His arms spread out and his face in the dirt, Jesus found himself in solidarity with all who fall in any way.

Contemplating how the soldiers roughly pulled Jesus up and made him take the last steps to Calvary, take a few moments to speak with him, expressing your gratitude for his understanding for every weakness or failure you have ever experienced.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped.

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

The sword passed through my heart again to watch my son so violated this way. They intended to shame him even more by executing him naked. They simply had to strip him of any dignity a human being could have left. I remember looking at this body I had bathed and cared for, now with all his wounds re-opened and bleeding, so exposed for everyone to see.

Now I see all the people in the world who are vulnerable and without any defense, all those whose dignity is violated, and I see this act of stripping as placing my son so completely with those who suffer. His incarnation was about to be complete.

Please pause to express what is in your heart and to give him thanks that this is all so that you might be free from the power of sin and death.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Eleventh Station: 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.

Today, as I remember him lying on the cross, with his arms outstretched, it is the sound of the hammer hitting the nails that stays with me. I remember pulling the first of many wood splinters from his fingers as a child working in Joseph's shop. Against his precious hands and wrists, that touched and healed so many, a nail was placed, and a hammer pounded the nail through his flesh and into the wood of the cross.

The sound – metal against metal – that ring – and the look on his face – the spasm of his whole body – I will never forget. Then, the other hand and finally his feet are nailed to the cross.

Spend some time with him now, imagining how they lifted him up on the cross, nailed there, that you might be free.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross.

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

The sword of helplessness split my heart in two as I watched him struggle to breathe, pulling himself up to let air out of his lungs. With incredible courage and compassion, he spoke of mercy and love.

There on that cross he gave me to John, and gave me to the Spirit filled Church that would be born on Pentecost. Then, after he gave himself into God's hands one last time, he took his last breath and he died. It is unforgettable to watch life leave the body of someone you love.

At the foot of his cross today, listen to my son tell you of his love for you. Speak to him from your heart.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross.

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

We waited what seemed like a long time before we had permission to take his lifeless body off that cross. And, it took so long to remove the nails, and to finally lower his body to the ground. Someone removed that horrible crown of thorns from his head. They pulled his hair back and wiped his face clean before letting me hold his body one last time.

He had been given to me for only a brief time. When he left home three years before, I was so proud of him and excited to experience what God would do through him. There at the foot

of the cross, my heart torn by grief, but always trusting in God's promise, I asked only to be God's servant for what was ahead. After the Ascension, when we would gather in homes for the Breaking of the Bread, I again held his broken body in my hands, now full of consolation that his promise was fulfilled: he would always be with us.

Let yourself join me in receiving this mystery of the death of Jesus being so real and complete. Knowing the rest of the story, join me in speaking with him, heart to heart, about our gratitude for how he has transformed the power of death.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

The Fourteenth Station: 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.

No mother should ever have to bury a child. Just a short time before this day, Jesus looked into Lazarus' tomb. He must have known he would be laid in a tomb like that soon. And when he thanked God for hearing his prayer, he must have known that the Father who sent him would give him life that would never die. In just a few days, this tomb would be empty and forever a sign of Jesus' surrender to the forces of sin and death, for us.

As we picture this scene, let us place the image of the empty tomb before our eyes. Whenever you are tempted to stand outside any tomb and grieve, remember this empty tomb and know that, through the eyes of faith, all tombs are empty.

Today, join me in giving him thanks. Join me in signing ourselves with the sign of his cross, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Mary, Mother of Mercy
- Pray for Us!

(<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>)

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

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. spare us, O Lord.

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. graciously hear us, O Lord.

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. have mercy on us.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of Heart,
R. 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

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. spare us, O Jesus.

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. graciously hear us, O Jesus.

V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
R. have mercy on us, O Jesus.

V. Jesus, hear us.

R. 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, You take away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

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

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

V. You have redeemed us, O Lord, in Your Blood.

R. 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.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO THE LORD

Lord you left your Mother in our midst that she might accompany us. May she take care of us and protect us on our journey, in our hearts, in our faith.

May she make us disciples like herself, missionaries like herself.

May she teach us to go out onto the streets.

May she teach us to step outside ourselves. [...]

May she, by her meekness, by her peace, show us the way.

Lord, you are a scandal. You are a scandal: the scandal of the Cross.

A Cross which is humility, meekness; a Cross that speaks to us of God's closeness. [...] Amen.

Psalm 136, 1-9, 25-26

Praise the LORD, for he is good;
for his mercy endures forever;
 Praise the God of gods;
 for his mercy endures forever;
Praise the Lord of lords;
for his mercy endures forever;
 Who alone has done great wonders,
 for his mercy endures forever;
Who skillfully made the heavens,
for his mercy endures forever;
 Who spread the earth upon the waters,
 for his mercy endures forever;
Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures forever;
 The sun to rule the day,
 for his mercy endures forever;
The moon and stars to rule the night
for his mercy endures forever;
 And gives bread to all flesh,
 for his mercy endures forever.
Praise the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures forever.





DAILY PRAYERS

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. (St. Thérèse of Lisieux, *Manuscrits autobiographiques*, C 25r.)

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or „out of the depths” of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that „we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. „Man is a beggar before God.

„If you knew the gift of God!” The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.

„You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” Paradoxically our prayer of petition is a response to the plea of the living God: „They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water!” Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God.

Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place „to which I withdraw.” The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves, wholly directed to the Father, in union with the human will of the Son of God made man. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2559-2565)

SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER

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

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with 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.

THE GLORY BE (THE DOXOLOGY)

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius

Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; 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.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

“Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” To the young man who asked this question, Jesus answers first by invoking the necessity to recognize God as the „One there is who is good,” as the supreme Good and the source of all good. Then Jesus tells him: „If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” And he cites for his questioner the precepts that concern love of neighbor: „You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.” Finally Jesus sums up these commandments positively: „You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2052)



THE SEVEN HOLY SACRAMENTS

1. Baptism.
2. Confirmation.
3. Eucharist.
4. Penance.
5. Anointing of the Sick.
6. Holy Orders.
7. Matrimony.

Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation (or Chrismation), the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life:1 they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1210)

THE PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the spirit of prayer, the indispensable minimum in and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2041)

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the heart of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, o Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

O God, on the first Pentecost You have instructed the hearts of those who believed in you by the light of the Holy Spirit, under the inspiration of the same Spirit, give us a taste for what is right and true and a continuing sense of His joy-bringing presence and power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN (THE SALVE REGINA)

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,
And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

ACT OF HOPE

O Lord God,

I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins
and after life here to gain eternal happiness

because you have promised it

who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,

and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.

ACT OF LOVE

O Lord God, I love you above all things

and I love my neighbor for your sake

because you are the highest, infinite and perfect
good, worthy of all my love.

In this love I intend to live and die.

Amen.

(Prayers excerpted from the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church).

ANGELUS

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh,

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

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

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Excerpted from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, revised edition

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REGINA CAELI

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

For he whom you have chosen to bear, alleluia!

Is risen as he said, alleluia!

Pray for us God, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, o Virgin Mary, alleluia!

For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia!

God, by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord
You were pleased to make glad the whole world
Grant, we beseech you,
That through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother,
We may attain the joys of everlasting life,
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus, hear me;
Within your wounds, hide me;
Let me never be separated from you;
From the evil one, protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And bid me to come to you;
That with your saints, I may praise you
forever and ever. Amen.

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PRAYER

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do You, O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day (or night) be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

O glorious Saint Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary, ever virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. You have been chosen by Christ's vicar as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Christ.

Protect the Holy Father, our sovereign pontiff, and all bishops and priests united with him. Be the protector of all who labor for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life, and grant that all peoples of the world may follow Christ and the Church he founded.

Dear St. Joseph, accept the offering I make to you. Be my father, protector, and guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me purity of heart and a love for the spiritual life. After your example, let all my actions be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and your own paternal heart. Finally, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Holy Saint Anthony, gentle and powerful in your help, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were always ready to request for those in trouble or anxiety.

Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (make a request here).

The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of miracles.

Gentle and loving Saint Anthony, whose heart is ever full of human sympathy, take my petition to the Infant Savior for whom you have such a great love, and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT JUDE

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of difficult cases, of things almost despaired of, Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone.

Intercede with God for me that He bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings,- (make your request here) – and that I may praise God with you and all the saints forever. I promise, O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor granted me by God and to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

Dear Lord, I do not know what will happen to me today. I only know that nothing will happen that was not foreseen by You, and directed to my greater good from all eternity. I adore Your holy and unfathomable plans, and submit to them with all my heart for love of You and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

O my God, at the end of this day I thank you most heartily for all the graces I have received from you. I am sorry that I have not made a better use of them. I am sorry for all the sins I have committed against you. Forgive me, O my God, and graciously protect me this night. Blessed Virgin Mary, my dear heavenly mother, take me under your protection. St. Joseph, my dear guardian angel, and all you saints of God, pray for me. Sweet Jesus, have pity on all poor sinners, and save them from hell. Have mercy on the suffering souls in purgatory.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give you thanks for all your gifts, almighty God, living and reigning now and for ever.

R. Amen.

WORKS OF MERCY

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty

- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

“I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy”.
(Saint Faustina, *Diary* 742)

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

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The Commemorative Prayer Book TOTUS TUUS compiled by:
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Volume IX

LIBRARY OF THE LAY INSTITUTE OF DIVINE MERCY

Computer typesetting: Zbigniew Łaszcz
Graphics: Dymitr Grozdeu

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Tel. 323/393-4144,
e-mail: faustinum@aol.com
Visit our website: www.divinemercury.opoka.org

ISBN 978-83-923527-4-7

Publisher:

© **Ofcyna Wydawnicza WYBÓR**, 2017
ul. Wyszyńskiego, lok. 11, 15-888 Białystok, Poland
e-mail: ofcynawybor@gmail.com

Printing:

 bialy
drukarnia **kruk**

Białystok, tel. +48 85 740 47 04, druk@bialykruk.com

I 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. I would like to give thanks to Merciful Jesus who allows us to be instruments of His Mercy. I firmly believe that the Shrine of Divine Mercy at Christ the King Parish is a place of silence, prayer and contemplation of the most important truths of our faith. It also contains the steps to heaven, where we will always venerate God in His Mercy.

From October 15, 2017, here, at Christ the King Church is the Chapel of our Lady, Mother of Mercy. The title "Mother of Mercy" is much loved by Christ's faithful. It is a fitting title for Our Lady because she brought forth for us Jesus Christ, the visible manifestation of the mercy of the invisible God. Jesus Christ is truly the mercy of God made flesh, and so Mary is truly the "Mother of Mercy."

The devotion to Divine Mercy occupies an important place in the ministry of the priests serving at Christ the King Parish. Divine Mercy is a way of life for the Parishioners. May this Prayer Book "TOTUS TUUS" be your friendly companion on this way.

The title of our Prayer Book – TOTUS TUUS – brings to our memory the Great Pope of Mercy, Saint John Paul II. Saint John Paul II took as the motto of his papacy Totus Tuus (Totally Yours). This was because his interior life was centered on his Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Pope Benedict XVI explained the motto and the papal coat of arms in his homily during the Mass for the beatification of Pope John Paul II: "Karol Wojtyła took part in the Second Vatican Council, first as an auxiliary Bishop and then as Archbishop of Kraków. He was fully aware that the Council's decision to devote the last chapter of its Constitution on the Church to Mary meant that the Mother of the Redeemer is held up as an image and model of holiness for every Christian and for the entire Church. This was the theological vision which Blessed John Paul II discovered as a young man and subsequently maintained and deepened throughout his life. A vision which is expressed in the scriptural image of the crucified Christ with Mary, his Mother, at his side. This icon from the Gospel of John (19:25-27) was taken up in the episcopal and later the papal coat-of-arms of Karol Wojtyła: a golden cross with the letter "M" on the lower right and the motto "Totus tuus", drawn from the well known words of Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort in which Karol Wojtyła found a guiding light for his life: **"Totus tuus ego sum et omnia mea tua sunt. Accipio te in mea omnia. Praebe mihi cor tuum, Maria – I belong entirely to you, and all that I have is yours. I take you for my all. O Mary, give me your heart"** (*Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, 266).

May Mary, Mother of Mercy be always with you.

Fr. George J. Bobowski
Director of The Lay Institute of Divine Mercy

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Volume IX

ISBN 978-83-923527-4-7