

# Divine Mercy Devotions

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Apostle of Divine Mercy



“Mercy is love that seeks to lessen  
the misery of others.”

Dr. Bryan Thatcher

# What Is Divine Mercy, And Who Is St. Faustina?



- Divine Mercy is that God loves us and He wants us to know that His mercy is greater than our sins. God wants us to call upon Him with trust and receive His mercy, so that it may flow from us to our fellow brothers and sisters. In this way, we all share in God's eminent love.
- Sr. Faustina was a young nun with the congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland, during the 1930's who received extraordinary revelations from Our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked her to record the messages in notebooks. These notebooks make up the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, and contains God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

# Timeline-History of Divine Mercy (DM)

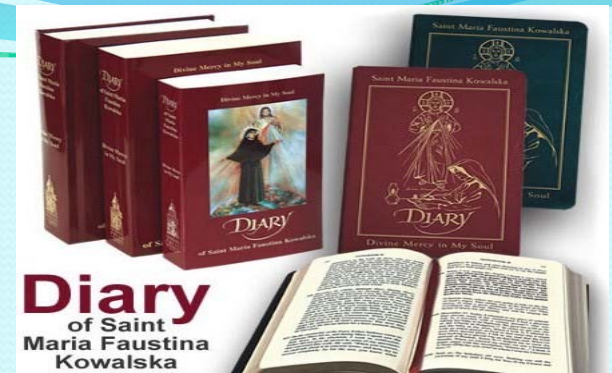


- Feb. 22, 1931-Sr. Faustina sees a vision of Jesus who tells her to paint His image
- June 1934-Image of DM is completed
- April 28, 1935-DM is publicly venerated
- Sept. 1937-Holy cards with the DM image are printed
- Oct. 5, 1938-Sr. Faustina dies
- 1940-1941-DM spreads first among the victims of WW II

# Timeline continued...

- April 1941-Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC brings DM message to America
- 1942-1959-Message is spread worldwide by MIC
- March 6, 1959-Holy Office bans DM devotion
- Oct. 21, 1965-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla begins the Informative Process of Sr. Faustina's life
- Sept. 1967-The process of Beatification of Sr. Faustina is inaugurated
- April 15, 1978-Prefect of Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith lifts ban

# Timeline continued...



- May 1980-Marians publish critical edition of Sr. Faustina's Diary in Polish
- Nov. 30, 1980-Pope John Paul II issues encyclical on the Divine Mercy- "Dives in Misericordia"
- 1986-Diary published in English
- April 18, 1993-Sr. Faustina beatified in Rome on Second Sunday of Easter
- April 30, 2000-Sr. Faustina is canonized in Rome and DM Sunday is proclaimed

# Timeline continued...

- Dec. 2000-Devotion to the Divine Mercy is listed in the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy; Principles and Guidelines*
- April 22, 2001-DM Sunday is celebrated officially for the first time by the universal Church
- Aug. 18, 2002-Pope John Paul II consecrates the whole world to the DM from the site of St. Faustina's tomb
- Aug. 21, 2002-Indulgences attached to devotions in honor of Divine Mercy

# Why Start Divine Mercy Devotions In Your Parish?

## For Him

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us:  
To be happy with God in heaven I must know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world (CCC 1).
- Jesus told Sr. Faustina, “Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy... Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace...Tell the world about My mercy and My love” (Diary 1074).
- “Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy” (Diary 848).

# Why Start Divine Mercy Devotions In Your Parish?

## **For Them**

- “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy” (Diary 300).
- “It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice” (Diary 848).
- “Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy” (Diary 1146).



# Why Start Divine Mercy Devotions In Your Parish?

## **For You**

- “Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infants, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior. At that last hour, a soul has nothing with which to defend itself except My mercy. Happy is the soul that during its lifetime immersed itself in the fountain of Mercy, because justice will have no hold on it” (Diary 1075).

# Why Start Divine Mercy Devotions In Your Parish?



- Pope John Paul II in 1980, in his encyclical letter, “Rich in Mercy” stated that, “The Church must profess and proclaim God's mercy in all its truth, as it has been handed down to us by revelation...The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy-the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer-and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior's mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser” (p. 13).

(Pope John Paul II, 1980)

# What Are The Divine Mercy Devotions?

- Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image
- Divine Mercy Sunday
- Hour of Great Mercy
- Chaplet
- Novena
- Divine Mercy Holy Hour

# Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image

- Jesus asked St. Faustina to paint an image of Himself and sign the painting, “Jesus, I trust in You.”
- Two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.
- By means of this image, Jesus grants many graces to souls.
- It is a vessel that imparts graces from the fountain of mercy.
- A reminder that God demands mercy.

# Divine Mercy Sunday-*The Feast of Mercy*

- Jesus told St. Faustina, “I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. By means of the Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it” (Diary 341, 570).
- On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed: “It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

# Divine Mercy Sunday, cont...

- Two Decrees issued by the Holy See:
  - 1) The normal readings for that Sunday are always to be used. They already reflect the message of Divine Mercy.
  - 2) The opportunity for the Plenary Indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday-issued on June 29, 2002
    - Eucharistic Communion, Sacramental Confession, prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff
    - This decree also states the duties of the Priests as: inform the parishioners, hear confessions, lead the prayers, and encourage the Faithful to practice works of charity or mercy
- Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image
- Blessing of Divine Mercy Image and objects

# Hour of Great Mercy

- Jesus spoke to St. Faustina, “ At three o’clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into my mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion” (Diary 1320).

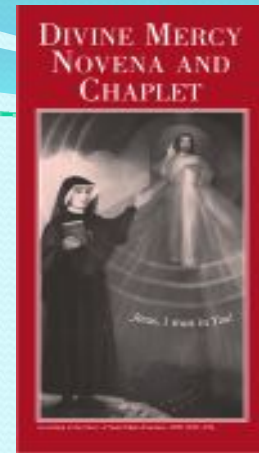
# Chaplet of Divine Mercy

- Prayed on the Rosary
  - The Sign of the Cross
  - Opening Prayers
  - The Our Father
  - The Hail Mary
  - The Apostle's Creed





# Chaplet, cont...



- On the “Our Father” beads:
  - Eternal Father, I offer You the body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- On the “Hail Mary” beads:
  - For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- After 5 decades:
  - Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world (3 x’s).
- Closing Prayer

# Novena to the Divine Mercy

- Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy to begin on Good Friday (Diary 1209).
- Jesus told St. Faustina, “On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in the ocean of My mercy...On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My bitter Passion, for the graces for these souls” (Diary 1209).

# Novena, cont...

- Day One: Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners...
- Day Two: Today bring to Me the souls of priests and religious...
- Day Three: Today bring to Me all devout and faithful souls...
- Day Four: Today bring to Me the pagans and those who do not yet know Me...
- Day Five: Today bring to Me the souls of heretics and schismatics (souls who have separated themselves from the Church)...

# Novena, cont...

- Day Six: Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children...
- Day Seven: Today bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy...
- Day Eight: Today bring to Me the souls who are in the prison of Purgatory...
- Day Nine: Today bring to Me souls who have become lukewarm...

# Divine Mercy Holy Hour

- Weekly or once a month (Optional for Parish)
  - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
  - “O Salutaris”
  - Gospel Reading for that day
  - Litany of the Holy Eucharist
  - Brief reflection on Divine Mercy
    - St. Faustina’s Diary
  - Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena
  - Silent Adoration
  - “Tantum Ergo”
  - Divine Praises
  - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
  - “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

(Under the spiritual guidance of  
Fr. William E. Young, Jr.-Pastor of Estancia Valley  
Catholic Parish)

# Mercy in Action

- Jesus told St. Faustina, “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” (Diary 742).

# Mercy in Action, cont...

- Spiritual works of Mercy
  - Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, forgiving, and bearing wrongs patiently (CCC, 2447).
- Corporal Works of Mercy
  - Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead, and giving alms to the poor (CCC, 2447).
- Praying the Chaplet for the Sick and Dying
- Praying the Chaplet for Pro-life Causes

# How Do We Start?

- First and most importantly: **GET THE PERMISSION AND BLESSING FROM YOUR PASTOR!**
- A letter from the Pastor introducing Divine Mercy Devotions in the Parish
- By word of mouth
  - Small group at first
    - Parish staff and interested parishioners
    - Set plans of Who? What? Where? When?
- Hold introductory meeting in parish.
- Announce from pulpit, bulletin, and bulletin board
- Hold sign up Saturday/Sunday
- Prepare schedule/calendar



# What Supplies Do We Need To Begin With?

- Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena Pamphlets
  - For distribution to Divine Mercy members and congregation
- A picture or painting of The Divine Mercy Image
  - Placed in prominent location in the Church
- **COMMITMENT, COMMITMENT, COMMITMENT!**  
And most of all **LOVE** for God & Neighbor!

# Can We Learn More About Divine Mercy?

- Divine Mercy Cenacles
  - Bible study/prayer groups that reflect and contemplate on St. Faustina's Diary, Sacred Scripture, and the Catholic Catechism.
  - Groups are comprised of 10-15 people.
  - Meet either weekly or bi-weekly
  - Three Cenacle Formation manuals
    - Written by Bryan and Susan Thatcher, Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy

# Divine Mercy; *“A way of life.”*



## Questions?

# References

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