DIVINE MERCY: THE SPARK THAT IS SETTING THE WORLD AFLAME

“I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red, and the other pale... After a while Jesus said to me: Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: ‘Jesus, I trust in You.’” (Diary, 47)

These words, taken from the diary of St. Faustina Kowalska, are the words of Jesus as he guided the visionary to capture the image he wished to reveal to the world of himself as the Lord of Divine Mercy.

During periods of Salvation history, when the world is in great need of divine intervention, the Lord often chooses as an intermediary a simple man or woman, unknown to the world, but exceptionally well known to him. The third of ten children born on August 25, 1905, in Glogowiec, Poland, young Helena Kowalska showed an early love of prayer, work and a sensitivity to the poor. Before the age of 20, she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, after which she lived in the congregation’s monasteries in Vilnius and Krakow. The 13 years of her religious life encompassed simple duties as cook, gardener, and door keeper. Her spiritual life, however, was imbued with personal contact with God, receiving the supernatural gifts of revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, bilocation, prophecy and the reading of souls. The mission of Sister Mary Faustina was recorded in her diary, which she kept at the specific request of Jesus and also of her spiritual director. So faithfully did she record the wishes of the Lord in this diary that he called her “Secretary of my most profound mystery.”

Perhaps it is no coincidence that two aspects of St. Faustina’s life are similar to those in the life of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney. Father McGivney was called home to God early in his life, two days after his 38th birthday, from tuberculosis. Sister Mary Faustina also was consumed by tuberculosis and died in Krakow at the age of just 33, on October 5, 1938.

Faustina’s reputation for holiness grew as the Divine Mercy devotion spread and many graces were received by those who prayed to her for intercession. It was the Archbishop of Krakow, the Most Rev. Karol Wojtyla, who initiated the cause for Faustina’s canonization in 1965. Her beatification process initiated in Rome in 1968 and concluded in 1992. She was beatified on April 18, 1993, and canonized by Pope John Paul II on Sunday, April 30, 2000, during the Sacred Liturgy in St. Peter’s Square. Supreme Knight and Mrs. Carl A. Anderson were present at the canonization.

As we began this brief synopsis of the life and work of St. Faustina with a quote from her diary, we close it with a quote from the homily given by the Holy Father at her canonization: And you, Faustian, a gift of God to our time, a gift of the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us...
an awareness of the depth of divine mercy, help us to have a living experience of it and bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of life and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred, and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment, and say with firm hope:

Christ Jesus, I trust in You! Jezu, ufam Tobie!

**Are you ready to trust Jesus??**

Opening Song:

Greeting: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Rite

Presider: Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask the Father’s forgiveness, for He is full of gentleness and compassion.

**Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:**

**Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord have mercy.

Presider: **Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ have mercy.**

All: Christ have mercy.

Presider: **Lord Jesus, you the fount of mercy from the Father to us. Lord have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.
Presider: Let us pray.
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.
All: Amen.

Divine Mercy Litany

All: Divine Mercy, gushing from the bosom of the Father, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, fount gushing forth from the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, I trust in You.
Divine Mercy, unfathomed by an 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 the Holy Church, 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.

Closing Prayer

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

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

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

All: Amen.

Acknowledgments

Diary, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 1987, Congregations of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Used with permission.

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet
Bible Reflections on Mercy to read and meditated for a moment

Old Testament
Psalm 51:1-3
Psalm 136:1-26
Micah 7:18
Exodus 33:19
Hosea 6:6
Hosea 12:6
Psalm 103:8
2 Samuel 24:14
Genesis 39:21-23
Hosea 4:1
Psalm 145:9
Psalm 25:6-9
Proverbs 14:31
2 Chronicles 30:9
Deuteronomy 7:2
Malachi 3:17
Proverbs 3:3
Psalm 107:1-43
Jonah 4:2
Isaiah 30:18
Psalm 52:10
Exodus 34:6
Exodus 25:17-22
Psalm 103:11
Exodus 20:6
Lamentations 3:22
Proverbs 12:10
Proverbs 3:4
Psalm 6:3
Exodus 15:13
Psalm 115:1
Psalm 86:15
Psalm 106:1
Deuteronomy 7:9
Deuteronomy 4:31

New Testament

Ephesians 2:4-5
John 3:16-17
2 Corinthians 4:1