

Divine Mercy in Our World

"I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of Mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: JESUS I TRUST IN YOU" (327).

Why trust? Because trust in God leads to a faith that comes alive with hope, gratitude, sorrow for sin, humility and perseverance. Trust leads to love, love is expressed in mercy and mercy is transforming. In fact mercy has been called love's second name. If one approaches the image of Divine Mercy, is unable to say "Jesus I trust in you" and is only able to say "Jesus help me to trust in you", they will still receive many blessings. Jesus told St. Faustina *"Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush, lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace"* (313) and *"By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it"* (570).

After the assassination attempt on his life, Pope John Paul II, while lying on his hospital bed, asked for two things: the revelations



St. Faustina

of Our Lady at Fatima and *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, St. Faustina's diary, which he asked to have read to him. Upon his miraculous recovery,

he visited his assailant to forgive him personally (even though as he lay bleeding in the ambulance rushing him to the hospital he had already forgiven him) and wrote the encyclical, *Rich in Mercy*, in which the Holy Father calls 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.”



Image of Divine Mercy

The message of Divine Mercy is as old as creation but is ever new. And especially for our times, there is the Gospel urgency to “repent and believe”. It is what the Church has always taught through Scripture and Tradition: that God’s Love is merciful and forgiving and that we too, must be merciful and forgive. “*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*” (Mt 5:7). “*By means of this Image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My Mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works*” (742). Divine Mercy must be more to us than just a pious devotion. It is not enough to hang

the image in our homes, pray the chaplet every day and receive Holy Communion on the first Sunday after Easter. God help us that Our Lord would ever say of us “*this people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me*” (Is 29:13). We must show mercy to our neighbours. While it can be difficult to be merciful at all times, it is a blessing to feel God’s

Mercy and to be merciful to others. When we find it impossible to forgive, when it is difficult to be kind, when the cost to us is high, when we feel we just don’t have it in us, when we don’t trust that Our Lord will be there for us, we **MUST** turn to Divine Mercy. There we find the vessel to an unending ocean of Mercy from which we can draw an abundance of grace to share God’s Mercy. We must seek God’s Mercy because we cannot give what we do not possess. What we do to others, we do to Jesus! “*I tell you solemnly, insofar as you did it to the least of these you did it to me*” (Mt 25:40).

Being merciful is not an option of the Divine Mercy devotion; it is a requirement! Our Lord strongly speaks about this to 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 neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse yourself from it"* (742). Jesus asked for one act of mercy, whether by deed, word or prayer, every day to honour Him, to show our love for Him. We need to forgive ourselves, we need to forgive others and we need to forgive those who do not forgive themselves. *"The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my Mercy"* (723). God is calling all of us to be merciful, to be vehicles of His Mercy to others. Who can forgive his brother seventy times seven? Who can be as compassionate as Our Father is compassionate? Without the grace of Divine Mercy, no one can. We must become vessels of His Mercy. We must not become like the unforgiving debtor because we are, all of us, prodigal sons and daughters. If we want to keep God's Mercy, we must be willing to share it.

The message of Mercy is that God loves us! He wants us to recognize that His great Mercy is greater than our sins and that His great Love

is greater than our shame, so that we will call upon Him with trust, even when we are frightened and uncertain. *"My Mercy is so great that no mind human or angelic will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity"* (699). Ask for His Mercy. The Lord wants us to approach Him in prayer, to repent of our sins and to ask Him to pour out His Mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The Lord wants us be merciful, to receive His Mercy and let it flow through us to others. The Lord wants us to trust in Him, to know that the abundance of His Mercy often corresponds to our trust. The more we trust in Him, the more Mercy will flow into our lives. Completely trust in Jesus!

Mercy is a grace, a gift from above. It is not forced; it falls as a gentle rain from heaven. And where it falls, it heals and blesses both him that gives and him that receives. Mercy is an attribute of God, and when it is found among men, earth shows itself most like heaven.

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

Peter and Linda Krushelnyski

N.B. The numerals in brackets reflect the numbering system in St. Faustina's diary.