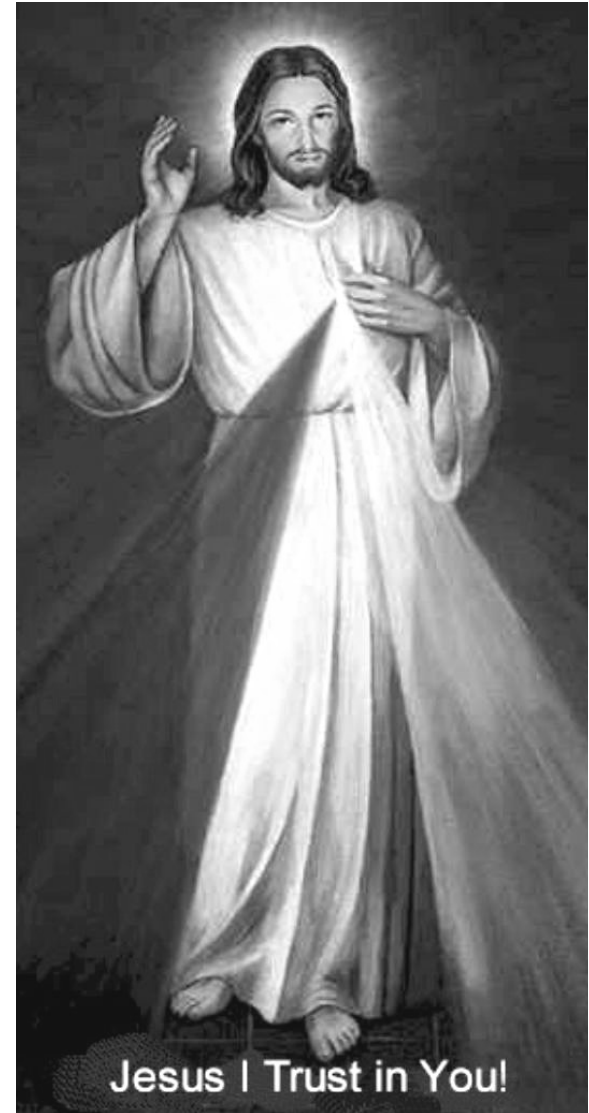


Feast of Divine Mercy

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Hour



Jesus I Trust in You!

INSTITUTION OF THE FEAST OF MERCY

by Pope John Paul II

“From the beginning of her existence, the Church, pointing to the mystery of the cross and the Resurrection, has preached the mercy of God, a pledge of hope and a source of salvation for humankind. Nonetheless, it would appear that we today have been particularly called to proclaim this message before the world. We cannot neglect this mission, if God himself has called us to it through the testimony of St. Faustina.

God has chosen our own times for this purpose. Perhaps because the twentieth century, despite indisputable achievement in many areas, was marked in a particular way by the “mystery of iniquity.” With this heritage both of good and evil, we have entered the new millennium. New prospects of development are opening up before humankind, together with hitherto unheard-of dangers. Frequently humans live as if God does not exist, and even put themselves in God’s place. They claim for themselves the Creator’s right to interfere in the mystery of human life. They wish to determine human life through genetic manipulation and to establish the limits of death. Rejecting divine law and moral principles, they openly attack the family. In a variety of ways they attempt to silence the voice of God in human hearts. They wish to make God the “great absence” in the culture and the conscience of people. The “mystery of iniquity” continues to mark the reality of the world.

In experiencing this mystery, humans live in fear of the future—of emptiness—of suffering—of annihilation. Perhaps for this very reason, it is as if Christ, using the testimony of a lowly sister, entered our time in order to indicate clearly the source of relief and hope found in the eternal mercy of God.

The message of merciful love needs to resound forcefully anew. The world needs this love. The hour has come to bring Christ’s message to everyone: to rulers and the oppressed, to those whose humanity and dignity seem lost in the *mysterium iniquitatis*. The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization: the civilization of love.”

—St. John Paul II (1920-2005, Pope 1978-2005, Beatified, May 1, 2011)

“This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depth of My tender mercies...It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter...I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.”

(St. Faustina’s Diary, #420,699)

“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 yourself from it.”

(St. Faustina’s Diary #742)

NOVENA PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

O Jesus, who filled your handmaid St. 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 St. 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.

St. Faustina, pray for us.

Background of the Divine Mercy Devotion

From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading through the world in the 1930's. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone—especially the greatest sinners. Jesus 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. Following the message is as easy as ABC.

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

The devotional practices proposed in the diary of St. Faustina are completely in accordance with the teachings of the Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ. By asking for the Lords' mercy, trusting in His mercy, and sincerely trying to live His mercy in our lives, we can assure that we will never hear Him say of us, "Their hearts are far from me," but rather that wonderful promise, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Our Lord said to St. Faustina: "Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you... Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death... 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... Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (#687, 1541, 1731)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

"The soul that will go to Confession within eight days before or after Mercy Sunday and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." (Diary of St. Faustina #699)

"Before the day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy." (#1588)

"He who refuses to pass through the door of My Mercy must pass through the door of My Justice." (#1146)

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

All Stand

Processional Hymn: To Jesus Christ our Sovereign King- G3#573

To Jesus Christ, our sov'reign king,
who is the world's salvation,
all praise and homage do we bring
and thanks and adoration. *Refrain.*

Refrain: Christ Jesus, Victor! Christ Jesus, Ruler!
Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!

Your reign extend, O King benign,
to ev'ry land and nation;
for in your kingdom, Lord divine,
alone we find salvation. *Refrain.*

To you, and to your church, great King,
we pledge our heart's oblation;
until before your throne we sing
in endless jubilation. *Refrain.*

Text: Martin B. Hellrigel, 1891-1981, alt., © 1941 Irene C. Mueller. Tune: Ich GLAUB AN GOTT, 8 7 8 7
with refrain: Mainz Gesangbuch, 1870; harm. by Richard Proulx, b. 1937-2010. © 1986. GIA Publications,
Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net # 716110.

All Kneel

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Hymn: O Saving Victim/ O Salutaris– G3#137

O salutaris hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur fer auxilium.

To your great name be endless praise,
immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O grant us endless length of days
when our true native land we see.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1275; tr. By Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt. Tune: DUGUET, LM: Dieu donne Duguet, d. 1767. In the public domain.

Intentions for this Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Presider:

Merciful Jesus,
in response to your appeal
to bring all human souls to your merciful love,
we offer this Holy Hour for all people.

Reader 1:

For all humankind, especially sinners. May the power of your
grace and forgiveness transform their lives.

For all priests and religious. May they grow in love and in zeal
for you and your mission.

For all devout and faithful people. May they never fail in love and
mercy, nor lose the treasure of the Catholic faith.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling G3#641

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us your humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, source of all compassion,
love unbounded, love all pure;
visit us with your salvation;
let your love in us endure.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all our life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
serve you as your hosts above,
pray, and praise you without ceasing,
glory in your precious love.

Finish then your new creation,
pure and spotless, gracious Lord.
Let us see your great salvation
perfectly in you restored.
Changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we sing before the Almighty,
lost in wonder, love and praise

Text: Charles Wesley. Tune: HYFRYDOL. 8 7 8 7; Rowland Prichard. In the public domain.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

(will be repeated after the Presider)

Blessed be God

Blessed be his Holy Name

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His most Sacred Heart

Blessed be His most Precious Blood

**Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament
of the Altar**

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary, Most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

All stand as the Blessed Sacrament
is returned to the Tabernacle



Reader 1:

For all those who do not believe in you and those who do not yet know you. May they sincerely seek and find you.

For all who have separated themselves from your Church. May they soon recognize their error and return to unity in the one true faith.

For all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. May they be like a sweet smelling bouquet before your presence, infusing the world with love, joy and hope.

For all who especially venerate and glorify your divine mercy. During life and especially at the hour of death, may you defend them and judge them with mercy.

For all souls in purgatory. May the streams of blood and water gushing forth from your heart, extinguish the cleansing flames that surround them.

For all souls who have become lukewarm. May the fire of your loving mercy enflame their hearts with passion for you and your Church.

Presider:

God of love and compassion,
in this octave of Easter we bring our prayers before you,
confident that your mercy brings eternal life
to all who seek your mercy and extend it to others.
May our words and deeds in this life
bring us one day to the eternal feast of mercy
where we will sit with your Son, Jesus, our Risen Lord,
who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.

All are seated

Reader 2:

A Reading of Excerpts from St. Faustina's Diary:

Over and over again Our Lord expressed His desire to St. Faustina that the whole world be told of His mercy.

“Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy. (#301)

Do all you possibly can for this work of My mercy. I desire that My mercy be worshiped, and I am giving humankind the last hope of salvation; that is recourse to My mercy. (#998)

The 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. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwells in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.” (#299)

From all my wounds...mercy flows for souls, but the wound in My Heart is the fount of unfathomable mercy. From this fountain springs all grace for souls. The flames of compassion burn in Me. I desire greatly to pour them out upon souls. (#1190)

Souls who spread the honor of My mercy, I shield their entire life, as a tender mother her infant, 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. (#1075)

BENEDICTION

Hymn: Tantum Ergo/Come Adore—G3# 139

Tantum ergo, Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Praestet fides supplementum.
Sensuum defectui.

Glory be to God the Father,
praise to his co-equal Son.
Adoration to the Spirit,
bond of love, in Godhead one.
Blest be God by all creation
joyously while ages run.

*Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-74; tr. by James Quinn, SJ. b. 1919, © 1969
Tune: ST THOMAS 8 7 8 7 8 7; John F. Wade, 1711-86. In the public domain.*

Presider: You have given them bread from heaven,
Alleluia!

All: Having all sweetness within it, Alleluia!

Presider: Let us pray...

Lord, our God,
You have given us the true bread from heaven.
In the strength of this food
may we live always by your life
and rise in glory on the last day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

All:

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.

Reader 3:

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

All:

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

Reader 3:

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 sufferings in silence. May your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

All:

**Lord, 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,
for my prayer reaches out
even where I cannot reach out physically.**

All kneel

All are seated

PSALM 33: Let Your Mercy Be on Us— G3#44

**Refrain: Let your mercy be on us, O God,
as we place our trust in you.**

Your words, O God, are truth indeed,
And all your works are ever faithful;
You love justice and right,
Your compassion fills all creation.

See how the eye of God is watching,
Ever guarding all who wait in hope,
To deliver them from death and sustain them in time of famine.

Exult, you just, in the Lord,
For praise is the song of the righteous!
How happy the people of God,
The ones whom God has chosen.

Our soul is waiting for God,
For God is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O God, be upon us
who place our hope in you.

Text: Psalm 33: 1, 4-5, 12, 18-19, 20, 22; Marty Haugen: refrain I trans. © 1969, ICEL: verses © 1987, 1994, GLA Publications, Inc. Music: Marty Haugen; © 1987) GLA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Onelicense.net #A716110.



All stand

Divine Mercy Scriptural Stations of the Cross

Presider:

Our Lord said, “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.” (#1320)

It is clear that our Lord wants us to meditate on His passion at this hour, to whatever degree our duties allow, and He wants us to ask for His mercy, and so we now pray these stations together.

**All: 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.**

Presider: For the sake of His institution of the Eucharist
as the memorial of His Passion

After each station, all respond:
Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Reader 3:

For the sake of his institution of the Eucharist as the memorial
of His Passion.

For the sake of His agony in the Garden

For the sake of His being scourged and crowned with thorns

For the sake of His being condemned to death

For the sake of His carrying the Cross

For the sake of His falling under the weight of the cross

For the sake of His meeting His afflicted Mother

For the sake of His accepting help in carrying the Cross

For the sake of His receiving mercy from Veronica

For the sake of His consoling the women

All stand

**DAILY PRAYER FOR THE GRACE
TO BE MERCIFUL TOWARDS OTHERS**

(from St. Faustina’s Diary #163)

Reader 3:

This prayer give us a true measure of our mercy, a mirror in which we can observe ourselves as other merciful Christs.

We can well make it our morning invocation and our evening examination of conscience.

All:

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.

Reader 3:

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.

All:

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.

Reader 3:

Help me, O Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbors’ needs and not be indifferent to their pain and moaning.



ST. FAUSTINA'S PRAISES OF DIVINE MERCY

Respond after each invocation: "I trust in you"

Reader: 4:

Divine mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father.
Divine mercy, greatest attribute of God.
Divine mercy, incomprehensible mystery.
Divine mercy, fount gushing forth from the mystery
of the most Blessed Trinity.
Divine mercy, unfathomed by an intellect, human or angelic.
Divine mercy, from which wells forth all life and happiness.
Divine mercy, better than the heavens.
Divine mercy, source of miracles and wonders.
Divine mercy, encompassing the whole universe.
Divine mercy, descending to earth in the person of the Incarnate Word
Divine mercy, which flowed out from the open wound
of the heart of Jesus.
Divine mercy, enclosed in the heart of Jesus for us,
and especially for sinners.
Divine mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host.
Divine mercy, in the founding of the Holy Church.
Divine mercy, in the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
Divine mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ.
Divine mercy, accompanying us through our whole life.
Divine mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death.
Divine mercy, endowing us with immortal life.
Divine mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life.
Divine mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell.
Divine mercy, in the conversion of the hardened sinner.
Divine mercy, astonishment for Angels, incomprehensible to Saints.
Divine mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God
Divine mercy, lifting us out of every misery.
Divine mercy, source of our happiness and joy
Divine mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence.
Divine mercy, embracing all the works of his hands.
Divine mercy, crown of all of God's handiwork,
Divine mercy, in which we are all immersed.
Divine mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts.
Divine mercy, only hope of despairing souls.
Divine mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear.
Divine mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls.
Divine mercy, inspiring hope against all hope.

For the sake of His being stripped
For the sake of His being crucified
For the sake of His death on the Cross
For the sake of His being buried
For the sake of His being raised from the dead

At the conclusion of these 15 station, pray the following together:

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

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

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

Period of Silence

All kneel

Presider: We will now pray and sing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
meditating, as we pray, upon the five wounds of Christ
commemorated by the five decades of the Chaplet.



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Presider: Let us pray...

All: “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 fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!”

All pray the Our Father together. **Our Father . . .**

All pray the Hail Mary together. **Hail Mary . . .**

All pray the Apostles Creed together:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

This portion of the Chaplet will be sung.

On the large bead before each decade, all sing:

**All sing: 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 each of the ten beads of each decade, all sing:

**All sing: For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

At the conclusion of each of the five decades, all sing:

**All sing: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

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

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

At the conclusion of the entire chaplet, all recite together:

**Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless,
and the treasury of compassion is inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us.
In difficult moments
may we not despair, nor become despondent,
but with great confidence,
submit ourselves to Your Holy Will,
which is Love and Mercy itself.
Jesus I trust in you, Jesus I trust in you,
Jesus I trust in you.**

All are seated for a Period of Silence