



**DIVINE
MERCY
HOUR
OF
PRAYER**

**SPONSORED
BY THE
KNIGHTS
OF
COLUMBUS**

JEZU UFAM TOBIE

The Holy Father prays at the Dedication of the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland.



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, Faustina, 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 to 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!

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn

*Love Divine,
All Loves Excelling*

Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling
Come, Al - migh - ty to de - liv - er,
Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down,
Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
Pure and spot - less let us be:
Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion
All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,
New - er more Thy tem - ples leave,
Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion,
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry
Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Serve Thee as Thy hosts take a - bove,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion,
Pray, and praise Thee with out ceas - ing,
Till we praise cast our crowns be - fore Thee,
En - ter ev - ry trem - bling heart
Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love,
Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Greeting

Presider: 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 also with you.

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 intercede for us
with your Father:
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.

Opening Prayer

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say,
“His mercy endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His mercy endures forever.” **R.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

R. Alleluia, Alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe! **R.**

R. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
R. Glory to you, Lord.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the

nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

If a bishop, priest or deacon is presiding, he may give a homily at this time. In the absence of a member of the clergy, the lector should read the introductory passage on pages 1-2.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS

The Chaplet

On the first bead, make the Sign of the Cross:

**All: In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

On the next bead, pray the Our Father:

Presider: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven.

**All: 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.**

On the next bead, pray the Hail Mary:

Presider: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

On the next bead, recite the Apostles' Creed

**All: 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

On the Our Father beads:

Presider: Eternal Father,
I offer you the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of your dearly
beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: in atonement for our sins and those
of the whole world.**

On the Hail Mary beads:

Presider: For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,

**All: have mercy on us and on the
whole world.**

*After five decades, conclude by
reciting three times:*

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

Period of Silent Reflection

The Praises of the Divine Mercy

All: 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, fount 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 the
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.**

CONCLUDING RITE

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 and woman.

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 your
Son, have mercy on us and upon the
whole world!


All: Amen.

Final Blessing

*If a bishop or priest is presiding,
he may conclude with a final blessing.*

Recessional Hymn

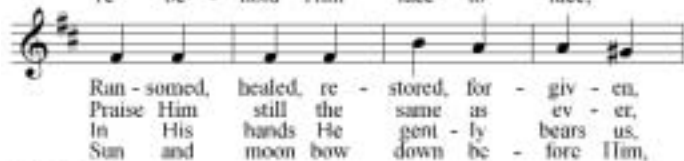
*Praise, My Soul,
the King of Heaven*



Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en;
Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor
Fa - ther like He lends and spares us;
An - gels help us to a - dore Him;



To His feet thy trib - ute bring;
To our fa - thers in dis - tress;
Well our fee - ble frame He knows;
Ye be - hold Him face to face;



Run - somed, bealed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
Praise Him still the same as ev - er,
In His hands He gent - ly bears us,
Sun and moon bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing;
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Res - cues us from all our foes;
Dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia!, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!, Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise the ev - er - last - ing King,
Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness,
Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows,
Praise with us the God of grace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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On June 28, 2003, Pope John Paul II blessed the Divine Mercy painting on loan to the Order from the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland.

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