

DIVINE MERCY PUBLICATIONS NEW ZEALAND



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

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Dear Companion in Christ

Thank you for your response to our advertisement in the TV Guide/TV.

The Image of Divine Mercy (Jesus) which you have seen is an artist's rendition of a vision received by a Polish Catholic nun, Sister Faustina, who entered the convent at age 22 and spent the next 13 years of her life there until she died at age 33 in 1938. She had a deeply mystical, religious life and received visions of and messages from Jesus Christ, highlighting His mercy and the great need for mercy in the 20th century and beyond. As Jesus Himself has said, Be merciful even as your Father is merciful (Lk 6:36). Jesus commanded her to write these messages in a diary.

This simple, humble religious Sister was canonised by Pope John Paul II in Rome, before a crowd of 200,000 on April 30, 2000. Thus her revelations and messages have received the Catholic Church's judgement that they are free from error in faith and morality.

She is now known as Saint Maria Faustina.

At her Canonisation the Holy Father said, *"Make Sister Faustina's prayer yours: 'Jesus I trust in you!'.*

Her note, written in her diary, is God's message for the world, *"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy"* (Diary 300).

Jesus continues to convey this by word and the image of mercy which portrays the risen Christ with the blood and water pouring from His side as opened by the soldier on Calvary (Jn 19:34).

In this is found the great source of Jesus' mercy for all of suffering humanity. His ocean of mercy in which He asked us to immerse all our suffering, bitterness and pain. It is a powerful and miraculous image and one with which He wants to comfort the world.

The reason for this focus on love and mercy is obvious when we look around our world, our country, our cities and our families and realise the level of degradation to which humanity has fallen and from which we are continuing to slide further. All this is because we have lost sight of eternity in Heaven. We have also ignored Jesus' rule for living, as best we can on this earth, a happy, fulfilling and peaceful life. These are the 10 Commandments.

We have substituted man's many and changeable laws for them and this is the reason we presently find ourselves in such a catastrophic moral breakdown.

However Jesus has not abandoned us; He has granted us His Divine Mercy for these times and all times since His death on the cross and no matter who we are or what we have done in life only one thing is necessary; to turn to Jesus with total TRUST and ask for His MERCY.

Ask and it will be given to you... for everyone who asks, receives (Mt 7: 7,8).

Jesus said, in the Diary of Saint Faustina, *"I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with Trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls.... the more a soul trusts the more it will receive.... I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to my compassion.... My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world.... I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you"*.

His mercy is unfathomable and endless; it is for all people no matter what. But we must turn to Him while there is still time.

"Thus the message of Divine Mercy is implicitly a message about the value of every human being", Pope John Paul II.

Enclosed is a small prayer book outlining the historical facts, relevant aspects and prayers of the Divine Mercy message and devotion as well as a postcard picture of the Divine Mercy and some leaflets with a summary of the most important parts of the message. These also contain the prayer formulas which we encourage you to adopt as part of your daily prayer routine and if you don't have one, why not start now!

Please read these and pray the prayer that is printed on the back of the Image of Mercy card everyday and ask for Jesus' forgiveness and for mercy on others in our country and families.

If you are a Catholic we encourage you to return to your faith, and if you are not, then to return to your Christian church/belief and to ask Jesus through His Mother, Mary, to direct you in your search for Him.

Perhaps you may consider becoming a Catholic? Please pray about this.

A response leaflet addressed to the Catholic Enquiry Centre is enclosed enabling you to receive, free of charge, a set of 10 booklets explaining what Catholics believe.

Note that the complete Diary of Saint Faustina is also available in paperback (700 pages) from Divine Mercy Publications at the price of \$45.00 which includes postage.

If we can be of any further help please write/phone again and remember to pray the Chaplet of Mercy everyday!

May God Bless you and lead you home to Him.

Pat & Christine Barrett
Divine Mercy Publications New Zealand

"There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy. May the Divine Mercy transform people's hearts!" Pope John Paul II

I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever, Ps 89:1

Evangelise with the Image!

Using the image of the Merciful Saviour is a powerful way to evangelise.

When I meet people who are interested in what I'm doing or who ask about the Divine Mercy lapel pin I wear, the image gives me an opportunity to spread the Good News of God's mercy. I always carry a Divine Mercy prayercard in my shirt pocket (just over my heart). It has the image of the Merciful Saviour on one side and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on the other. Taking the prayercard out of my pocket, I explain that the image represents Blessed Faustina's vision of Jesus on February 22, 1931. Then I refer to each of the significant features of the image.

Jesus the High Priest

I point out first that Our Lord is dressed in a white robe, with His right hand raised in blessing. This, I explain, is Jesus, The Divine Mercy, the merciful and faithful Great High Priest of the New Covenant, offering us His priestly blessing of peace, bestowing the Holy Spirit and His mercy for the forgiveness of sins.

I then explain that the image is like a multi-exposure photograph, overlapping the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and the octave day of Easter (Mercy Sunday).

Thus, it summarises the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Next, I call attention to the left hand of Jesus, which seems to be gesturing to His Heart, as if inviting us to come to His Heart of refuge. This, I explain, is his great desire, for the pierced Heart of Jesus, is the source of all mercy.

Pointing to the red and pale rays of light that emanate from the area of the Lord's Heart, I note that the rays represent the Blood and Water that gushed forth from the pierced Heart of Jesus, and that they symbolise the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

Pledge of Trust

Moving downward with the rays, I point to the words written below the feet of Jesus: "Jesus, I trust in you". I explain that the Polish word that Blessed Faustina used in her diary for this phrase means 'signature'.

Jesus didn't tell Blessed Faustina that He wanted the image "inscribed" with this phrase. He told her He wanted it "signed". It's like signing a contract. We are to pledge our trust in Jesus in all the circumstances of our lives, thus accepting His transforming mercy. By repeating this short prayer over and over again, we are reaffirming our willingness to keep our part of a covenant with Jesus, trusting all to Him, so that He can pour His mercy out upon us.

Be Merciful

The last, and perhaps most important thing I explain about the image is that it is not simply a reminder to trust in the mercy of God. It is also a reminder of the demands of His mercy.

"I demand from you deeds of mercy", Our Lord told Blessed Faustina. "You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere" (Diary, 742).

Giving the prayercard to the interested person, I mention that by this image, Christ is inviting us to enter into His presence with complete trust, allowing the rays of His mercy to envelop us and then flow through us to others.

Fr George Kosicki, CSB, is one of the best-known authors and speakers on Divine Mercy. He is administrator of Divine Mercy International at the Marian Helpers Center on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, MA.