

Divine Mercy

Overview

The feast of Divine mercy is celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. It has become a pious and popular devotion for the faithful.

The Source for the Divine Mercy Devotions

In the 1930's a simple uneducated Polish nun – Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska – received a message from Jesus. She was told to spread this message throughout the world. Jesus asked her to become an apostle and secretary for God's mercy. She was to be a model to others for mercy and to be the instrument of God's plan.

Sister Faustina told her parents – at the age of 15 – that it was her desire to enter the convent. When she was about 20 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was also not very well – suffering from asthma and tuberculosis.

The Sacred image of Divine Mercy

In 1931 Our Lord appeared to Sister Faustina in a vision – seeing Him clothed in a white garment with his right hand raised in a blessing. His left hand was touching His heart where two large rays emanated – one red and the other a white color. Jesus told her that the red color denoted Blood and the white ray was Water.



Jesus told her to paint the image as shown to her – telling her that He wished it to be venerated throughout the world. Sister Faustina was never satisfied with the finished painting – saying that it did not do justice to Jesus. Our Lord told Sister Faustina that the image was not of importance – and what was important is His Grace. Soon there became two popular devotions to Divine Mercy – a chaplet and a novena.

The Divine Mercy Diary

The diary of Sister Faustina is record of her life experiences – the journey of her soul (as described in the diary). The Book *“Divine Mercy – In my Soul”* is published by the Marian Helpers Press and can be found in religious bookstores and on-line. It was originally published in Polish – but has been translated into many languages.

In spite of her doubts of being worthy she began to keep a diary in 1930 – in obedience to her spiritual director and superiors. For about 4 years she recorded the

revelations and mystical experiences received from Jesus and Mary. The diary is a record of extraordinary Catholic mysticism with Jesus and the message for mankind she was shown.

The method of reciting the Chaplet

The chaplet begins by making the sign of the cross and using ordinary rosary beads for the five decades.

➤ **Begin** by reciting the *Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed.*

➤ **On each** of the large separating (Our Father) beads for each decade – recite the following:

***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 the** ten smaller (Hail Mary) beads recite:

***For the sake of His
Sorrowful Passion,
Have mercy on us,
And on the whole World.***

➤ **Conclude** with:

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

The method for the novena

You may wish to begin each day with the invocation *“Today bring to Jesus... (See text insert below)”* and then recite a chaplet for each of nine days as follows:

1. **First day** – ...all mankind, especially for all sinners.
2. **Second day** – ...the souls of priests and religious.
3. **Third day** – ...all devout and faithful souls.
4. **Fourth Day** – ...those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus.
5. **Fifth day** – ...the souls of those who have separated themselves from the church.
6. **Sixth day** – ...the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children
7. **Seventh day** – ...the souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus 'mercy.
8. **Eighth day** – ...the souls who are detained in Purgatory.
9. **Ninth day** – ...souls who have become lukewarm.