

**Homily Outline for the Mass of Divine Mercy Sunday
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
April 11, 2021**

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- I. The devotion to the Divine Mercy stems from the revelations made to the Polish nun St. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) over a number of years and at several convents, including the one in Krakow where she is buried.
 - A. There are several elements involved in this devotion. One is the image of the merciful Jesus based on a vision of February 1931. In it Our Lord is pictured in the act of blessing, with two rays, one red and the other pallid (representing blood and water), shining from his heart. The words “Jesus, I trust in thee” are placed at his feet.
 - B. Other elements are the hour of mercy, at 3 in the afternoon, in which the Passion is meditated upon and certain prayers recommended by the revelations are recited. As well as this, there is the chaplet of Divine Mercy with its attendant litany. It is recited using rosary beads but substituting other prayers such as “Through your sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the entire world” on the beads of the Hail Mary.
 - C. A special request of these visions was that the first Sunday after Easter should be the feast of Divine Mercy and that on this day the Divine Mercy should be proclaimed in a special way.
 - D. The spirituality of Pope John Paul II was deeply influenced by the devotion to the Divine Mercy, and he dedicated his second encyclical, *“Dives in Misericordia,”* to this theme. As archbishop of Kraków he promoted the beatification of Sister Faustina and on the occasion of her canonization in April 2000 announced that henceforth the second Sunday of Easter would be the feast of Divine Mercy.¹
 - E. Seventeen Things Jesus Revealed to St. Faustina About Divine Mercy,² in His words:
 1. “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. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On

- that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." – St. Faustina's *Diary* 699 [Note: confession does not have to be done on the Sunday itself. Beforehand is fine]
2. "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy." – St. Faustina's *Diary* 300
 3. "Let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice." *Diary* 848
 4. "He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice..." *Diary* 1146
 5. "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity." *Diary* 965
 6. "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. *Diary* 367
 7. "These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy." *Diary* 299
 8. "My daughter, write that the greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy; [urge] all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of My mercy, because I want to save them all." *Diary* 1182
 9. "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy. My mercy is confirmed in every work of My hands. He who trusts in My mercy will not perish, for all his affairs are Mine, and his enemies will be shattered at the base of My footstool." *Diary* 723
 10. "[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy." *Diary* 1146

11. "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy." *Diary* 1109
 12. "I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy." *Diary* 1059
 13. "I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. 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." *Diary* 742
 14. "Tell [all people], My daughter, that 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." *Diary* 1074
 15. "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.'" *Diary* 327
 16. "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." *Diary* 48
 17. "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire lives 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." *Diary* 1075
- II. Today's Gospel (Jn 20:19-31) has three parts: the appearance to the disciples without Thomas, the gifts of peace and the Holy Spirit with the power to forgive sins, and the appearance to Thomas.
- III. What does "Divine Mercy" mean?
- A. Not a "Get Out of Jail Free" card!

B. First reading from the *Letter to Titus* (3:3-8): “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deluded, slaves to various desires and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful ourselves and hating one another.”

1. Their lives changed because of the kindness, generous love, and mercy of God our Savior.

C. In Latin: *miser cordia*; *miserere*: to have compassion; *cordia*: of the heart.

1. Jesus is merciful because He has a compassionate heart and calls us to have compassionate hearts as well in our words and actions.

D. Spiritual works of mercy

1. Admonish the sinner
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

E. Corporal works of mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. Shelter the homeless
4. Visit the sick
5. Visit the imprisoned
6. Bury the dead
7. Give alms to the poor

IV. May God give us this grace. Amen.

¹ <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/divine-mercy-sunday-4367>

² <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/17-things-jesus-revealed-to-st-faustina-about-divine-mercy>