

One

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus revealed to St. Faustyna that on this day he would pour out a whole ocean of graces upon anyone who would go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on this day. Jesus promised we will receive complete forgiveness of our sins and the removal of all the temporal consequences of our sin.

To receive this great Mercy for ourselves or for a deceased person in purgatory Jesus explained that we should: Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (Pope Benedict XVI extended the time to go to Confession up to twenty days after Divine Mercy Sunday if we go with the intention of fulfilling the requirements of the Feast.) Jesus said to Faustyna, “Tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. 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 Fountain of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.” 699

To receive the indulgence we must also pray one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. And though not absolutely necessary Jesus encouraged us to venerate an Image of Divine Mercy by displaying it in a place of honor in our home and parish. And to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on this day.

Jesus said, “I am prolonging the time of mercy for the sake of sinners. But woe to them if they do not recognize this time of My visitation.”
(*Diary* 1160)

Two

If we want to receive the Mercy of God then we must give Mercy to others.

In the Beatitudes Jesus said, Blessed are those who are merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Jesus said to St. Faustyna, “If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgment with their mercy.” Diary 1317

Again Jesus said to St. Faustyna, “I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first, by deed, the second, by word, the third, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me... Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and 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

Three

If we want the Mercy of God, then we must give mercy to others by deeds, by words and by prayer.

The Catechism teaches us that the *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

First, the Spiritual works of mercy. Instructing, advising, consoling, and comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity. It is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

We always think of the corporal works of mercy as taking care of the materially poor. And we should. However, what our wealthy Western culture suffers from most is first a spiritual poverty that comes from a lack of relationship with God, and second, loneliness. I call it friendship deficit syndrome. We lack real friendship and community.

So why not combine them both by regularly inviting family and friends to get together and do good things together like a meal or drinks or a walk, and talk while you do it? (That is the problem of socializing in front of entertainment on screens, we don't talk and we leave lonelier than we came). And then invite them to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet or the Rosary with you.

That would be a great act of Mercy!

Four

The second way Jesus wants us to give mercy is by our words.

One way to give mercy to someone by your words is to demonstrate just how good it is that they exist and how they make the world a better place just by being in it. How do we do that? Simply get to know them better by their personal story. It may be the story of their past, how they got to this point today. It may be their current story of what is going on in their life. Or it might be the hoped-for story of their future comprised of their

desires and dreams. Either way, one of the greatest acts of mercy is to be genuinely interested in the people in your life, to delight in them, and show that you really think the world is a better place just because they are in it. By our words let us express to one another – It is good that you exist, how wonderful you are.

Five

The third way Jesus commanded us to live mercy is by prayer. But I think we fail to pray with confidence.

Yet, listen to the testimony of the devil himself. Faustyna writes, “Taking the form of an apparition the devil said, “Do not pray for sinners, but for yourself, for you will be damned.” Paying no attention to Satan, I continued to pray with redoubled fervor for sinners. The Evil Spirit howled with fury, “Oh, if I had power over you!” and disappeared. I saw that my suffering and prayer shackled Satan and snatched many souls from his clutches.”

And don't say Faustyna's prayer is more powerful than yours. All the power of prayer rests in the power of Jesus. The only difference between you and Faustyna is that she recognized the spiritual battle, that souls were at stake, and that prayer is a powerful weapon. So have confidence in Jesus and pray for souls

Jesus said, “Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer: “O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You.” 187

Divine Mercy Chaplet

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from thence He shall come 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.”

Our Father

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

Hail Mary

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among
women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

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

On the Our Father beads pray:

“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 Hail Mary beads, you will pray:

“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

In conclusion, three times you will recite these words:

“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”