

# Divine Mercy Sunday

By Robert Stackpole, STD

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*As recorded in Diary entry 965, Jesus said to [Saint] Faustina: "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them ... the Feast of My mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice is near." ...*



*"On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday] 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 are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow..."*

*Jesus also left three more instructions for St. Faustina that must not be forgotten.*

*First, He wanted priests to proclaim clearly the message of Divine Mercy on Mercy Sunday. Diary entry 570: "On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy." Diary entry 1521: "... Hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart." ...*

*Second, Jesus asked that the Image of The Divine Mercy be publicly venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday. In Diary entry 341, for example, Jesus said to St. Faustina: "... I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it."*

*To "venerate" a sacred image or statue simply means to perform some act, or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents: in this case, our most merciful Saviour. A parish might venerate the image by having prayers to the merciful Jesus said before it, and/or placing flowers before it and putting it on view in a position of prominence in the sanctuary and/or by censuring the image (i.e., using incense), honouring the image along with the altar and sacred vessels during the liturgy.*

*It should come as no surprise that Jesus wanted this image to be venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday. After all, the Image of The Divine Mercy sums up the whole devotion to God's mercy in one picture. It depicts His merciful love for us both in His Passion (in the Blood and Water flowing from His breast, as it did on Calvary) and in the Resurrection – the whole Paschal mystery. Also, in the inscription at the bottom of the image, we find a summary of the basic response that Jesus asks of each of us to His merciful love: "Jesus, I trust in You."*

*In short, our Lord not only wants His priests to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy in words on that day; He also wants the message to be proclaimed through a sacred image – a visual aid, so to speak – because He knows well the truth of what we commonly say: "A picture is worth a thousand words."*

*Finally, Jesus made it very clear to St. Faustina that in preparation for the Feast of Mercy we need to be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers. If we are not practicing the works of mercy in our lives, then our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday would be a kind of blasphemy, rather than an offering pleasing to the Lord (Mic 6:6–8).*

Responding to the fervent request of the Lord Jesus, we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday with the utmost piety. Desiring for the devotion to Divine Mercy to be as visible as possible for the parishioners, we placed the image of Divine Mercy on the central wall of the sanctuary for this special day. The afternoon celebration of the Divine Mercy Hour immersed us in a unique atmosphere of prayer. No one can imagine the graces we received, especially the Plenary Indulgence.

Thank you to those who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation before and after the service. I extend my sincere thankfulness to all of those who prayed in our church, glorifying and praising God's name.

Special thanks go to Carina Charmaine Sandejas for her beautiful singing and the entire music ministry. She traveled to St. Margaret Mary Parish from Toronto to enhance the liturgy. The singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy deeply touched us and will remain in our memory for a long time.

During The Divine Mercy Hour, five altar servers, kneeling and praying, adorned the Lord Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. What a deep devotion!

We concluded our celebration with a joyful Agape, gathered in the Hearth Room. Many thanks to the Filipino community and the CWL Ladies for preparing the delicious reception and all the help. I invite everyone to join us next year for our communal prayer.

Fr. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.



**ST. MARGARET MARY**  
Roman Catholic Church