

## The Message of Divine Mercy



**In the Great Jubilee, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. M. Faustina (Kowalska) of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady Of Mercy. She was the first saint to be canonized in the New Millenium. That was no accident but a part of a great plan, a theme to lead us into this new era of history. Who was this 33 year old Polish saint who never left her convent and is now known throughout the entire world? She said, "My mission will not come to an end upon my death but will begin." (Diary- Divine Mercy in My Soul, 281)**

**After her parents prayed for ten years to have children, they gave birth to ten children. Helen was the third of the ten. She felt her calling to give her life to God for the first time at the age of seven and at eighteen asked her parents' permission to join the convent. Having been refused twice, she felt that maybe she did not have to follow the strong call within. Because God has given us a Commandment to respect our parents, she thought that she didn't have to listen to God's will made known to her from within.**

**She tried to avoid God's call by living a worldly life, seeking to distract her attention to the strong call of grace from within. The Lord had such a great mission for her, however, that He intervened at a crucial moment in Helen's teen years. One evening she attended a dance with her sister. As soon as she began to dance, she saw the scourged Jesus beside her- Jesus covered with wounds. He reproached Helen saying, "How long shall I put up with you and how**

**long will you keep putting Me off? (Diary, 9)**

**This vision of Christ and these words made Helen determined to do God's Will no matter the cost. When she went to the nearest church to pray, the Lord told her to join the convent at once. Helen joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, Poland on August 1st, 1925 at 19 years of age. She received a new name - Sr. Maria Faustina and later added, "of the Most Blessed Sacrament." She lived in the convent thirteen years working as the cook, gardener and doorkeeper. Jesus commanded her to write. This was very significant because Sr. Faustina only had two and a half years of elementary education. When she complained because of her lack of education, Jesus told her that He would make up for what she lacked because the Diary would be for the benefit of many souls. The book itself contains 644 pages - truly a feat of God's miraculous intervention. When she had almost finished the writing of the book, Jesus told her that what she had written was but a drop compared to the ocean of His mercy and that there was nothing of her in it. Sr. Faustina died of tuberculosis on October 5th, 1938. Pope John Paul canonized her in 2000 and now we celebrate her feast day on October 5th.**

**Jesus told St. Faustina, "You will prepare the world for My final coming." (Diary, 429) When she tried to ignore Jesus' words, He told her: "Know that if you neglect the matter of the painting of the image and the whole work of mercy, you will have to answer for a multitude of souls on the Day of Judgment." (Diary, 154)**

**Jesus is giving humanity recourse to His mercy as a defense against evil and a means of imploring His mercy upon souls. He says, "Speak to priests about this inconceivable mercy of Mine. The flames of mercy are burning Me- clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don't want to believe in My goodness." (Diary, 177) "Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign of the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the font of My mercy; let them profit from the Blood and Water which gushed forth for them." (Diary, 848)**

**Jesus is giving us five new ways of worshiping His mercy - means of grace to draw souls to His goodness. This is His message of hope because He came to seek us out to save us. The first form of worship is through the veneration of the Divine Mercy Image - a picture The**

**second form of worship is the celebration of the Feast of Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter, now established in the Catholic Church as Divine Mercy Sunday.**

**The third way of worshipping God's mercy is through the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy - the prayers to appease Divine wrath that Jesus taught us through St. Faustina in 1935.**

**The fourth way of worship is recalling the moment of Christ's Passion and Death at 3 pm every day.**

**The fifth form of worship is by spreading the message of God's mercy even by encouraging someone to trust in Him or by performing works of mercy. To each of these five ways of Divine Mercy worship, Jesus has attached singular graces.**

**Sisters of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

