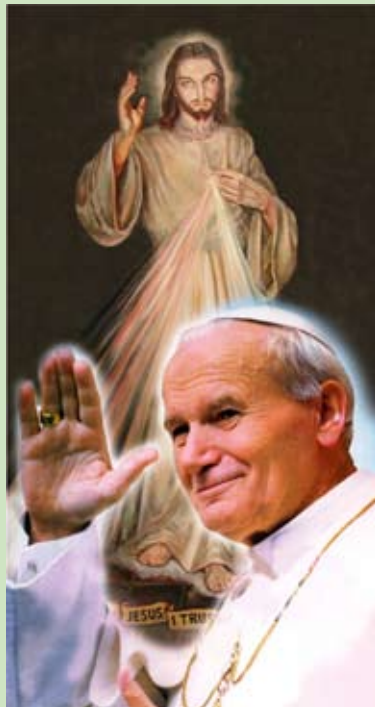


Fifth Southern California Divine Mercy Congress

November 19, 20, & 21, 2010



**Christ the King Church is home
to the Divine Mercy Image.
Please visit the Shrine.**

624 N. Rossmore Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90004
(corner of Melrose and Vine)



During the Jubilee of the Year 2000 the beloved Servant of God John Paul II established that throughout the Church the Sunday after Easter should be called *Domenica in Albis* and *Divine Mercy Sunday*. This occurred contemporaneously with the canonization of Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish Sister who was born in 1905 and died in 1938, a zealous messenger of the Merciful Jesus. Indeed, mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for man, and therefore for us. When the Church has to recall an unrecognized truth or a betrayed good, she always does so impelled by merciful love, so that men and women may have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10: 10). From divine mercy, which brings peace to hearts, genuine peace flows into the world, peace between different peoples, cultures and religions.

Like Sister Faustina, John Paul II in his turn made himself an apostle of Divine Mercy. In the evening of the unforgettable Saturday, 2 April 2005, when he closed his eyes on this world, it was precisely the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter and many people noted the rare coincidence that combined the Marian dimension - the first Saturday of the month - and the dimension of Divine Mercy. This was in fact the core of John Paul II's long and multi-faceted Pontificate. The whole of his mission at the service of the truth about God and man and of peace in the world is summed up in this declaration, as he himself said in Krakow-Łagiewniki in 2002 when he inaugurated the large Shrine of Divine Mercy: "Apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for mankind". John Paul II's message, like St Faustina's, thus leads back to the Face of Christ, a supreme revelation of God's mercy. Constant contemplation of this Face is the legacy he bequeathed to us which we joyfully welcome and make our own.

(BENEDICT XVI , REGINA CAELI ,Second Sunday of Easter, 30 March 2008)

FIFTH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF THE DIVINE MERCY 2010



“Is There A Need To Talk About God’s Mercy These Days?” November 19 – 20 – 21, 2010

Christ the King Roman Catholic Church
624 N. Rossmore Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90004
Website: ctk-la.org

The Lay Institute of Divine Mercy
323/393-4144
Website: www.divinemercury.opoka.org

THE CONGRESS OF DIVINE MERCY IS DEDICATED
TO GOD’S SERVANT JOHN PAUL II – THE GREAT POPE OF MERCY

“There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy—that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God.

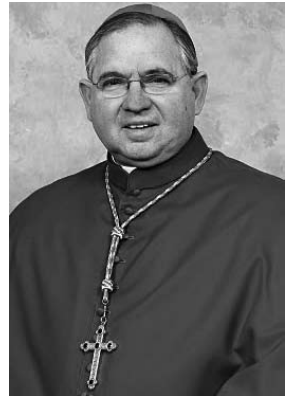
...It is a message that is clear and understandable for everyone. Anyone can come here, look at this image of the merciful Jesus, His Heart radiating grace, and hear in the depths of his own soul what Blessed Faustina heard: “Fear nothing. I am with you always” [Diary, 586]. ... And if this person responds with a sincere heart: “Jesus, I trust in you,” he will find comfort in all his anxieties and fears.... I give thanks to divine Providence that I have been enabled to contribute personally to the fulfillment of Christ’s will, through the institution of the Feast of Divine Mercy. ...I pray unceasingly that God will have “mercy on us and on the whole world” [from the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Diary, 476]. (John Paul II, Homily, Krakow 1997)

PRAYER FOR ASKING GRACES THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD POPE JOHN PAUL II

O Blessed Trinity, we thank You for having graced the Church with Pope John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your Fatherly care, the glory of the cross of Christ, and the splendor of the Holy Spirit, to shine through him.

Trusting fully in Your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd, and has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you. Grant us, by his intercession, and according to Your will, the graces we implore, hoping that he will soon be numbered among your saints. Amen.

**Archbishop José Horacio Gómez
Coadjutor Archbishop
of the Archdiocese
of Los Angeles**



DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

[Divine Mercy Devotion] is an old devotion in the Church that has been renewed in the last years through the life and writings of St. Faustina Kowalska who was canonized by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2002.

It seems to me that this devotion is more needed than ever because through it, we will receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, we can foster a growing love for God and for our neighbor; especially we will be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to our brothers and sisters. (Cf. The Apostolic Penitentiary).

Let us take this opportunity to participate in Jesus' Divine Mercy, through our prayers and devotions in honor of Divine Mercy. There is the Divine Mercy Novena, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc.

In the words of Pope John Paul II: "trust in Divine Mercy! Day after Day become men and women of God's Mercy! Mercy is the robe of light that the Lord gifts us in Baptism. We cannot allow this light to fade; on the contrary it must grow each day so we may bring the Lord's Good News to the world!"

Let's ask God's mercy for the world, for our country, for the Church and for each one of our families and us.

(Archbishop Gomez, Homily – 2nd Sunday of Easter – 2007 Divine Mercy)

The Lay Institute of Divine Mercy

The principal aim of the Lay Institute of Divine Mercy is:

- To evangelize to make the Church a sign of the saving presence of God in the World, To strive for Christian perfection through trust in God and showing mercy towards one's neighbors,
- To get to know and proclaim the mystery of God's mercy,
- To support Catholic Missions around the world and to entreat God's mercy for the whole world.
- To support Seminarians around the world
- To provide formation and continue of the research and study initiated by Blessed Fr. Michal Sopocko

Visit our website: www.divinemercy.opoka.org
Tel. 323/393-4144, E-mail: faustinum@aol.com

Please support our Ministry

Please remember to send your love offering to:

**The Lay Institute of Divine Mercy
419 N. Larchmont Blvd., # 41 Los Angeles, CA 90004**





As Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Hollywood I warmly welcome you to the Fifth Southern California Divine Mercy Congress. It is time once again to celebrate our Faith and Trust in God's Mercy.

In the church of Christ the King there is a special chapel dedicated to the Divine Mercy. The Image of Merciful Jesus has been blessed by the Holy Father John Paul II on April 30, 2003 during a special audience in the Vatican. Holy Father John Paul II - The Great Pope of Mercy placed His signature on this Image.

At a time when there is so much anxiety and confusion over economic affairs and global conflict, only in Divine Mercy will the world find refuge and the light of hope. We Christians believe that our reason and our hope for existing are to be found only in the heart of God's Mercy.

This year's Congress' theme is: **"IS THERE A NEED TO TALK ABOUT GOD'S MERCY THESE DAYS?"**

Saint Sister Faustina, wrote in her Diary: "In Your mercy, O Lord, You have given us everlasting life. You admit us to Your everlasting happiness and grant us to share in Your interior life. And You do this solely out of Your mercy" (Diary 1743)

Your participation in this Congress, your presence in our Sanctuary of Divine Mercy expresses your devotion to Jesus the King of Mercy and your willingness to bring souls to the fountain of His Mercy

May Merciful Jesus Bless You

*Rev. Msgr. Paul Montoya
Pastor of Christ the King Parish*



Greetings to All Believers in God's Divine Mercy:

The 2010 Divine Mercy Congress at Christ the King Parish will be a true blessing for all of us who wish to grow in our spiritual lives. We live in a world in which we struggle with our own personal imperfections as well as those of others.

The message of Divine Mercy, however, reminds us to forgive ourselves and others.

As Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, I frequently meet people in the Marriage Tribunal who struggle with hurts and resentments. The message of Divine Mercy is that all relationships are in need of mercy. Holding on to resentments against ourselves, others, God and life in general only leads to a life of sadness.

As Christians we are called to live a life of mercy, not resentments. Jesus is the teacher of both forgiveness and mercy. In the Scriptures we encounter the reality of Jesus, the *Innocent One*, persecuted and on the cross. Often we feel that we are on the cross being nailed and humiliated unjustly. With God's grace we must be like Jesus and forgive those who hurt us. Often those who hurt us *know not what they are doing*. And for those who *know exactly what they are doing*, we must seek the grace of God even more intensely to *do for us what we cannot do for ourselves*; namely, to be people of mercy.

This year's Divine Mercy Congress will be a wonderful opportunity to grow in our ability to be people who reflect God's mercy.

Yours in Christ, the Model of Mercy,

*Msgr. Charles J. Chaffman
Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*

DIVINE MERCY CONGRESS SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 19, 20 AND 21, 2010

Friday – November 19, 2010

5:00 PM	Congress Registration
6:00 PM	Opening/Welcome
6:30 PM	Opening Mass – Bilingual Celebrant: Msgr. Charles Chaffman
7:30 PM	Opening Conference – <i>DIVINE MERCY: YOURS FOR THE ASKING</i> – Speaker: Father Rodel G. Balagtas

Saturday – November 20, 2010

8:00 AM	Congress Registration
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening/Welcome – Msgr. Paul Montoya, Pastor
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Conference – MESSAGE OF DIVINE MERCY TRANSMITTED TO THE MODERN WORLD BY JOHN PAUL II – PERSONALISTIC CONCEPT OF MERCY IN THE TEACHING OF JOHN PAUL II – Speaker: Father John Meyer
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Conference – THE GIFT OF LIFE – FRUIT OF THE DIVINE MERCY. “THE CULTURE OF LIFE” OR “THE CULTURE OF DEATH” – Speaker: Father Leo Ortega
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Conference – “BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL” LK 6,36 – DISCIPLE OF CHRIST – SERVANT OF MERCY – THE FACE OF CHRIST IN SOCIAL SERVICES Speaker: Sister Paula Vandegaer, SSS, LCSW
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Mercy in Deeds and Free will Offering, Testimonies
3:00 PM	Holy Hour of Mercy – 3:00 O’clock Prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy – Bilingual Meditation
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Conference – “IS THERE A NEED TO TALK ABOUT GOD’S MERCY THESE DAYS?” Speaker: His Excellency Bishop Oscar A. Solis, D.D.
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Penance Service and Individual Confession
5:30 PM	Holy Mass and Healing Service – Bilingual Celebrant: Fr. Michael Sears

Sunday – November 21, 2010 – Parish Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ

10:30 AM	Solemn Holy Mass – Bilingual Celebrant: Msgr. Paul Montoya
12:00 PM – 1:45 PM	LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Conference – CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE OF MERCY IN THE MODERN WORLD Speakers: Fr. George J. Bobowski and Fr. John-Paul Gonzalez
3:00 PM	3:00 O'clock Prayers – Great Hour of Mercy Singing the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy Reflection – EXPLORE THE DIVINE MERCY – CHANGE THE WORLD Stations of the Cross and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Veneration of the Relics of St. Faustina and Blessed Fr. Michael Sopocko
4:30 PM	Conclusion – Msgr. Paul Montoya, Pastor Closing Remarks: Personal Experiences and Testimonies

SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 20, 2010

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Conference: LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Classroom Visits

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

QUINTO CONGRESO DEL SUR DE CALIFORNIA DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA 2010

Viernes – Noviembre 19, 2010

5:00 PM	Registración para el Congreso
6:00 PM	Apertura/ Palabras de Bienvenida
6:30 PM	Misa de Apertura (Bilingüe) Celebrante – Msgr. Charles Chaffman
7:30 PM	Conferencia – MISERICORDIA DIVINA: TUYA SÓLO POR PEDIRLA – Orador: Padre Rodel G. Balagtas

Sábado – Noviembre 20, 2010

8:00 AM	Registración para el Congreso
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Apertura/ Palabras de Bienvenida – Msgr. Paul Montoya, Párroco
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM (Auditorio)	Conferencia – EL MENSAJE DE LA MISERICORDIA DIVINA TRANSMITIDA AL MUNDO MODERNO POR JUAN PABLO II – CONCEPTO PERSONALÍSTICO DE MISERICORDIA EN LAS ENSEÑANZAS DE JUAN PABLO II Orador: Padre Jose Cruz Mendez Garcia, CORC

11:00 AM – 11:45 PM (Auditorio)	Conferencia – EL REGALO DE LA VIDA – FRUTO DE LA MISERICORDIA DIVINA. “LA CULTURA DE VIDA” O “LA CULTURA DE MUERTE” – Orador: Diacono Salvador Ramirez
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	RECESO PARA EL ALMUERZO
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Conferencia – “SEAN COMPASIVOS, COMO SU PADRE ES COMPASIVO” LK 6,36 – DISCÍPULO DE CRISTO – SERVIDOR DE MISERICORDIA – LA CARA DE CRISTO EN LOS SERVICIOS SOCIALES Orador: Hermana Paula Vandegaer, SSS, LCSW
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Obras de Misericordia, Ofertorio y Testimonios
3:00 PM	Dirigentes: Padre George J. Bobowski y Padre John-Paul Gonzalez La Hora de la Misericordia – Oración de las tres de la Tarde Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia, Cantada Meditación: Padre John-Paul Gonzalez
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Conferencia – ¿HAY NECESIDAD DE HABLAR ACERCA DE LA MISERICORDIA DE DIOS ESTOS DÍAS? Orador: Su Excelencia Obispo Oscar A. Solis, D.D.
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento Servicio de Penitencia y Confesiones Individuales
5:30 PM	Misa de Sanación (Bilingüe) Celebrante – Padre Michael Sears

Domingo – Noviembre 21, 2010
Festividad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo El Rey

10:30 AM	Misa Solemne (Bilingüe) – Celebrante – Msgr. Paul Montoya
12:00 PM – 1:45 PM	RECESO PARA EL ALMUERZO
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Conferencia – LLAMADO A SER UN APÓSTOL DE MISERICORDIA EN EL MUNDO MODERNO Orador: Padre George J. Bobowski y John-Paul Gonzalez
3:00 PM	La Hora de la Misericordia – Oraciones de las tres de la Tarde (Bilingüe) La Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia – Cantada Reflección: EXPLORA LA MISERICORDIA DIVINA – CAMBIA EL MUNDO Estaciones de la Cruz y Procesión del Santísimo Sacramento Bendición del Santísimo Sacramento; Veneración de las Reliquias de Santa Faustina y el Beato Padre Michael Sopocko
4:30 PM	Conclusión – Rev. Msgr. Paul Montoya, Párroco Comentario de Clausura: Experiencias Personales y Testimonios – Padre George J. Bobowski y Padre John-Paul Gonzalez

**INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING
THE THREE DAYS OF THE CONGRESS**

**CONFESIONES INDIVIDUALES SERÁN DISPONIBLES
DURANTE LOS TRES DÍAS DEL CONGRESO**

CONGRESS SPEAKERS



Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles

Bishop Solis was ordained a priest June 16, 1984. On February 10, 2004, Cardinal Mahony ordained him bishop—the first ordained in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and the first Filipino-American bishop ordained in the United States. He was born in San Jose in the Philippines. As Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, He previously served as head of the Ethnic Ministries and Office of Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese. On September 30, 2009 Cardinal Mahony appointed him Episcopal Vicar of the San Pedro Pastoral Region



Father Rodel G. Balagtas

Father Rodel G. Balagtas is a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California. He obtained his theological studies from St. John Seminary in Camarillo, California and earned his doctor of ministry in preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. A gifted preacher, he is a frequent presenter on Homiletics. For eighteen years, he has been in parish ministry in large multicultural communities. Since 2002, he has been the pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Los Angeles.



Sister Paula Vandegaer, SSS, LCSW

Sister Paula Vandegaer, SSS, LCSW is a Sister of Social Service and the founder of International Life Services, Volunteers for Life, and School Institute of Bioethics. Sister is an internationally recognized leader in the pro-life movement and has trained, ministered, and inspired thousands. She is the best-selling author of the first textbook written for today's pro-life counselors, *Introduction to Pregnancy Counseling*. Sister's experience, energy and passion for pro-life work make her one of today's most popular speakers.



Father Leo Ortega

Fr. Leo was ordained on May 31, 2008 by Cardinal Roger Mahony at The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. He holds a Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy, and Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy. Before ordination he was an Occupational therapist for 20 years, Clinical instructor at University of Southern California and Assistant professor of Occupational Therapy at California State University. Current Assignment: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Los Angeles)



Father John-Paul Gonzalez

Father John-Paul is a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He was born on the first anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. Father John-Paul studied at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, California where he received his Master of Divinity and Master of Arts (Systematic Theology) degrees. He holds a certificate of the Art of Spiritual Direction from the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange, California. He is Chaplain of St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, California.



Father George J. Bobowski

Since 1990 Fr. George has dedicated his life to preach and spread the devotion to Divine Mercy. He initiated the Lay Institute of Divine Mercy to continue the research conducted by Blessed Fr. Michael Sopocko - Confessor and Spiritual Director of Saint Faustina Kowalska. Fr. George was blessed to have met Blessed Fr. Sopocko and be a witness of this holy Man. Fr. George J. Bobowski, along with Archbishop Senior Stanislaw Szymeccki and Metropolitan Archbishop Professor Edward Ozorowski from the Archdiocese of Bialystok, found and contributed to "Time of Mercy" magazine.



Father Jose Cruz Mendez Garcia, CORC.

Father Jose Cruz Mendez Garcia was born on April 27, 1965, in Guanajuato, Mexico. Ordained Priest in the Basilica of Guadalupe, D. F. by Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llobera. He received his academic training in Santiago de Queretaro, Guanajuato and Aguas Calientes, Mexico.

Deacon Salvador Ramirez

Deacon Salvador Ramirez was born in Guadalajara Jalisco Mexico. He is Deacon at Saint John of God Parish in Norwalk CA. where he is the director of RCIA since 1994. He attended 3 years at the East Los Angeles College and the University of Southern California. He is the Master Teacher of Natural Family Planification by the Method of Ovulation, of the Foundation of the American Families since 2001. He received his master in Theology and Bioethics from the Theology Graduate College of Cloverdale in 2008. Masters in Theology and Bioethics from the Graduate Theological Foundation in 2009. Currently he is initiating the first group of Divine Mercy in Spanish at Saint John of God Parish.



Father John Meyer MS, STD

Father John Meyer is a priest of the Opus Dei Prelature, currently living in California, USA.

HOLY EUCHARIST DURING THE CONGRESS

November 19, 2010 6:30 PM – Opening Mass

Reverend Monsignor Charles Chaffman, S.T.L., J.C.D.

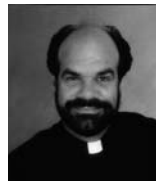
Monsignor Charles Chaffman is the Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Director of International Institute of Theological and Tribunal Studies. Msgr. Chaffman is a Professor of Tribunal Studies at the Foundation. Msgr. Charles Chaffman, born in Los Angeles in 1956 attended St. Luke School, Temple City, and Queen of Angels Seminary High School, Mission Hills. Having served in several positions in the Tribunal and has studied in Rome, he is now the Judicial Vicar for the archdiocese, and is in residence at Christ the King Church, Hollywood.



November 20, 2010 5:30 PM – Healing Mass

Father Michael Sears

Fr. Michael is a native of Southern California and was ordained from St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA in 1994 for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Fr. Michael is now Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Los Nietos, CA. He is very active in the healing and teaching ministries. He started The Confraternity of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in 1996. He is the moderator of The Servants for the Sacred Heart of JMJ. He is the author of The Charism of Tongues: A Gift of Prayer and Edification.



November 21, 2010 10:30 AM – Solemn Holy Mass

Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ the King

Reverend Monsignor Paul Montoya

Msgr. Paul was born in Wyoming. He attended St. John Chrysostom Elementary School and Hawthorne High School. After high school he entered St. John's Seminary College from which he graduated in 1969 with a B.A. in Philosophy. Monsignor enrolled in St. John's Seminary Theology and completed his M.A. in Divinity and was ordained in 1973. Msgr. Paul has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities since 1989. Currently, he is Vice President of the Board of Trustees and serves on the Executive Committee and the Resource Development Committee. From July 01, 2010 Msgr. Montoya is pastor of Christ the King Parish in Hollywood.



Archbishop Raymond L. Burke

THE REVELATION OF DIVINE MERCY



Introduction

The Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday recalls the fullness of the revelation of God's all-merciful love of us in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These holiest of days in the Church Year mark the events by which our Lord won our salvation, making us heirs, with Him, of eternal life. They also make present for us, in a strong way, the abundant gifts of God's immeasurable love, the gifts of His grace won for us by God the Son's suffering and Dying.

The fifty days of Easter, beginning with the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and concluding with His Sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, are filled with the recognition of how God continues to pour out His merciful love for us in His Son, our Lord, risen from the dead and alive for us in the Church. In the events of the Sacred Triduum, which culminate with the Resurrection, all time finds its meaning and every person of every time and place is embraced by the love of God. Christ, after he had risen from the dead, ascended to the right hand of God the Father, so that He might send the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and, through the Apostles, upon the whole Church. Through the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church, Christ is with us always, most especially in the Sacraments, until His return in glory on the Last Day.

Public Revelation and Private Revelation

In the last century, our Lord Jesus granted a private revelation to a Polish religious sister, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. The purpose of the private revelation was to draw us to the fullness of the public revelation of the Father's immeasurable love for us in His Incarnate Son. As with all private revelations, the private revelation to Sister Maria Faustina draws us to recognize the public revelation of God's love in the Redemptive Incarnation of God the Son.

In the particular case of Sister Maria Faustina, the private revelation is centered upon the mercy of God. Sister Maria Faustina kept a meticulous record or diary of all that our Lord taught her about His immeasurable mercy toward us. It is entitled *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul* and is available through the religious order of men, the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, who are in charge of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy at Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Having studied the Diary and having returned often to reread its passages, I wholeheartedly urge you to obtain a copy for your daily spiritual reading and meditation.

Why the Private Revelation of Divine Mercy?

The private revelation of the immeasurable mercy of God toward us came at a time when many had lost hope. It was the time between World War I and World War II, a time of great disillusionment and suffering. It was also the time, in which the godless philosophies of Rationalism and Atheistic Materialism (Marxism) had more and more insinuated themselves into the popular culture, leaving many with a sense that there was nothing beyond themselves and the material realities about them. The resulting forgetfulness of God and of His plan for us and our world leaves them without hope. In response to man's loss of hope, our Lord, in His infinite love, spoke to Sister Maria

Faustina and revealed to her an image of Himself to remind us of His unfailing mercy. In the image, two streams of light, red and white in color, flow from the pierced Heart of Jesus. These streams represent the blood and water which flowed from the Heart of Jesus, when, after His death on the Cross, it was pierced by the Roman soldier's spear. They symbolize the unceasing outpouring of divine grace from the glorious Heart of Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father, especially in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. Under the image are inscribed the words: "Jesus, I trust in You." These words are our prayer when we look upon the image of our Lord, Divine Mercy Incarnate.

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Divine Mercy Sunday

Through Sister Maria Faustina, our Lord asked that, each day, we recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 P.M., the hour of His death for our salvation. He also asked that we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, preceding the celebration with a novena to Divine Mercy, beginning on Good Friday. Those who devoutly participate in these devotions can only be filled with hope in God's merciful love and strengthened against the temptations to discouragement and despair.

The one who most promoted the devotion to the Divine Mercy was our late and most beloved Pope John Paul II, first as Archbishop of Cracow and then as Roman Pontiff. Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Maria Faustina on April 18, 1993, and he canonized her on April 30, 2000, the Second Sunday of Easter. During the homily of the Mass, he declared: "It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the Word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'." Since April 30, 2000, the Second Sunday of Easter also bears the name of Divine Mercy Sunday.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, the image of the Divine Mercy, revealed to Saint Faustina, is to be displayed in the church or chapel, and the homily is to be a reflection on the immeasurable mercy of God toward us. In order to participate fully in the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, the faithful are asked to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion and to cultivate interiorly a great trust in the mercy of God and to practice exteriorly acts of mercy, especially on behalf of brothers and sisters in most need. We should go to Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday itself or some days before Divine Mercy Sunday, so that we will be rightly disposed, that is, free of any mortal sin and from any attachment to sin, to receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Conclusion

Regarding Divine Mercy Sunday, Saint Faustina records these words of our Lord to her: "My daughter, 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 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. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.... The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy" (Diary, n. 699). Let us all draw near to the Fount of Divine Mercy in the Sacraments of Confession and, above all, the Holy Eucharist. Let us pray, in the coming days and especially during the Novena of Divine Mercy that all souls which have drifted away from our Lord will receive the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Sr. M. Elzbieta Siepak, O.L.M.

THE MOST FAITHFUL DAUGHTER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY



Tell the Superior General to count on you as the most faithful daughter in the Order, said Jesus to Sister Faustina.

To fully understand the life, spirituality, and mission of Sr. Faustina, we first need to get to know the Congregation to which Jesus called her, where He prepared many graces for her (cf. Diary 19), where she spent her whole religious life and also received the mission of Mercy directed to the whole Church and the world.

When Helena Kowalska entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy on Zytunia Street in Warsaw on August 1, 1925, the Congregation had already gone through 73 years of difficult history, passing through the period of annexations and World War I. It had been enjoying merely a few years of freedom. At that time, the spirit of the Congregation and its charismatic, apostolic mission were already strongly established. The “Mercy Houses,” run by the sisters for girls and women in need of deep moral renewal, were overcrowded. Many generations of sisters had spent their whole lives working to rescue lost souls, thus preparing the way that led up to this environment of the first 20 to 30 years of the 20th century.

The foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy was laid by Teresa Ewa Potocka, née Sulkowska. After the death of her husband, count Potocki, she left for Laval, France along with Tekla and Antonina Klobukowska in order to prepare themselves for educational work with morally lost girls and women. After an eight-month formation period under the direction of Mother T. Rondeau, the superior of the French religious community in Laval, they returned to Poland. At the invitation of Archbishop Szczesny Felinski, they started a shelter for girls on Zytunia Street in Warsaw. On November 1, 1862, All Saints Day, Archbishop Felinski blessed the house and chapel. This day marks the foundation of the Congregation.

The statement of the Foundress, Mother Teresa Potocka, “Is it a small matter to save one soul?” marvelously expresses the spirit and aim of this young religious community. The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland was formed after the model of the one in Laval and based on its constitutions. For many years, it struggled not only with poverty, but mostly in an environment of underground religious life due to oppression in the territories occupied by the Russians. It was in such difficult conditions that the charism of cooperating with Jesus in the work of rescuing lost souls developed and strengthened.

The Constitutions of 1909 state:

By their most patient dedication to that purpose, the sisters fulfill the most noble service and give the greatest honor to God’s majesty, because God doesn’t desire anything as much as the salvation of souls, especially sinners, for whom He took on human flesh, This work contains in itself, on a higher level, all the other good works to which we

could dedicate ourselves. It is a most glorious task, for it is closely united with Jesus Christ, His Most Blessed Mother, the Apostles, and many other saints who offered their life, works, sufferings, and death to free human soul from the death of sin and to give them the life of grace and glory (Constitutions 1909, p. 46).

This long quotation presents the fundamental goal for which the Congregation was established as well as the awareness of the greatness of this work in the Church. Sister Faustina, who lived this spirit, expressed it in a letter to a fellow sister: “What joy I feel in my soul that Jesus called me to our Congregation which is so closely united with the work and mission that Jesus had, that of rescuing souls. ... We must remember that our mission is sublime. ... We must totally possess the spirit and the attributes of Jesus: our love of God requires our total self- immolation for the benefit of immortal souls” (Letters, p. 82).

The spirituality of the Congregation, based on the mystery of Divine Mercy and Mary, the Mother of Mercy, and the charism of rescuing lost souls reached its peak and fullness in Sr. Faustina’s life. That is why Jesus could call her the most faithful daughter of the Order (Diary 1130). Therefore, the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy acknowledged her as its Spiritual Co-foundress through an official act on August 25, 1995.

“Faustinum” Formation



The Apostolic Movement of the Divine Mercy sprung from the charism and mystical experience of Saint Faustina.

- It undertakes the task of proclaiming to the world the message of Mercy through deeds, words and prayer;
- It strives for union with God on the path of trusting in Him and practicing mercy toward neighbors.

The main emphasis in the Apostolate of Divine Mercy activity is placed on formation, which aims at introducing Faustinum members into the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Catholic Church in order to prepare the apostles of Divine Mercy to lead independent interior lives and properly understood apostolic work in the spirit of Saint Faustina’s charism.

The basic formation program lasts 4 years and consists of 3 cycles:

- The biblical cycle,
- The interior life,
- And the spirituality and mission of Saint Faustina, Blessed Father Michael Sopocko, God’s Servant John Paul II.

We invite you to join us at the Divine Mercy formation sessions held at: Christ the King Roman Catholic Parish, Saint John of God Parish in Norwalk, Saint Catherine Labouré Parish in Torrance, and in Solvang and Glendale.

Please join us.

For more information contact:

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LETTER FORM PRESIDENT OF “FAUSTINUM” ASSOCIATION

Cracow, 5th of October, 2010

Dear Apostles of Divine Mercy of “Faustinum” Association!

Receive our heartfelt greetings from the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Cracow-Łagiewniki, Poland. May this letter be sealed with my love in Jesus to all of you. We offer you gift of our prayers which can reach you from this special place chosen by God to sow the grace of his mercy, from the place of Saint Faustina - where the message of God’s merciful love has been proclaimed since many years, from the place of prayer and of constant appeals for mercy for the whole world.



I am very glad to learn that you dedicated your life to our dear Merciful Lord and listened to the voice of God calling you to follow Him in your daily life. Thank you for being one with us in this spiritual family which was borne out of charism that St Faustina received. In this letter I cordially greet all Faustinum groups, particularly those who begin their time of being volunteers and wish all of you to experience God’s living and healing touch in your lives. I hope that one day some of you would come to know deep in your hearts a desire to become also members of Faustinum Association.

Let’s join our hearts in adoring the inconceivable and unfathomable mystery of God’s mercy. As you know this abandonment of ours to the all-powerful love of God is especially needed in our times. We believe that God’s merciful and tender love will save humanity bringing peace and salvation. In order it could be fulfilled the Lord needs you to be the Daughters and Sons of Divine Mercy, living in the spirit of trust and mercy toward your neighbors. He needs you that the message of mercy be known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to those you love and all those who are in most need of His compassion, forgiveness and love. May you be witnesses to mercy!

With our loving prayers

Sr. M. Salvatricze Musiał ZMBM
President of Faustinum Association

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Fr. George J. Bobowski

SANCTUARY OF DIVINE MERCY IN HOLLYWOOD



Since some years ago in the world wide known place of entertainment, capital of the movies, world-famous Hollywood, known as a vanity fair, the Devotion to the Divine Mercy is spreading. In 2003, three years after the canonization of Sister Faustina the Image of the Merciful Jesus came from Poland to the local parish of Christ the King. The Image was blessed in Rome by Holy Father John Paul II. The Pope, himself a great devotee to Merciful Jesus, upon the request of Father Zenon Jarzabek and Father George J. Bobowski, signed the Image. The image was placed in a separate chapel, which includes the paintings of Saint

Faustina and Blessed Father Michael Sopocko. Also in the Church there is a plaque dedicated to John Paul II. Today the Image of Merciful Jesus is the only one Icon in the United States signed by God's Servant John Paul II. This makes this Icon a relic.

This very new center of devotion to the Divine Mercy has made a considerable contribution to the spreading of this devotion to Mercy - the Highest Attribute of God. The devotion to the Divine Mercy occupies an important place in the ministry of the Priests serving at Christ the King Parish. Divine Mercy is a way of Life for the parishioners.

I strongly believe that it was God's Will to bring the Devotion to His Mercy to Hollywood. Now is the Time of Mercy, Divine Mercy. This is the time to bring God's mercy to all and I am very grateful to those who supported this idea from the beginning, to those who helped me to share the time of Divine Mercy with the faithful in Los Angeles. Firstly I would like to give thanks to Merciful Jesus who allowed us to be instruments of His Mercy. My gratitude and thanks to Father Antonio Cacciapuoti – whom for eleven years was the Pastor at Christ the King Parish in Los Angeles, who is continuously spreading the Divine Mercy in his community and I am sure that he will be the Apostle of Divine Mercy for eternity. I am also grateful to Father Charles Chaffman for being an unquestionable apostle of Divine Mercy. Special thanks to Father John-Paul Gonzalez. Without Father John-Paul, his dedication and wisdom will be impossible to have the five Congresses of Divine Mercy. Thanks to Father Paul Montoya, the new pastor at Christ the King Parish, who from the first day embraced this beautiful devotion and the Divine Mercy Ministry. I hope that Monsignor Montoya will make this place more visible and the church of Christ the King will become a Diocese Shrine of Divine Mercy.

Thanks to you the parishioners of Christ the King Roman Catholic Parish who embraced Divine Mercy in this specific place; specially my thanks to the leaders of the Divine Mercy Ministry. Also my gratitude goes to the "Faustinum" formation groups and its moderators in Christ the King Parish in Hollywood, Saint John of God Parish in Norwalk, Saint Catherine Labouré Parish in Torrance, and in Solvang and Glendale.

Sister Faustina lived in Poland but we find so many devoted people to the Divine Mercy here in Los Angeles. I believe that the shrine of Divine Mercy at Christ the King Parish, is not only a place of silence, prayers and contemplation the most important truth of our faith, in the "Noisy" Hollywood but the steps to heaven, where we will always venerate God in His Mercy.