



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

THE SACRED HEART AND DIVINE MERCY

www.thedivinemercy.org

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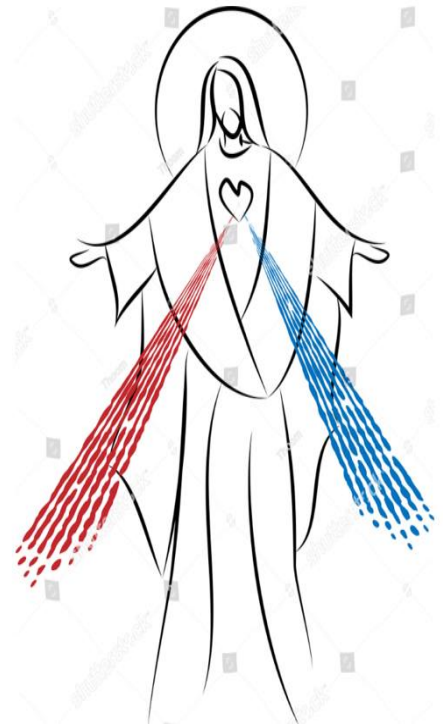
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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

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Today I want to talk about the merciful heart of Jesus. Occasionally I am asked, "What is the difference between the devotion of the Sacred Heart and the Divine Mercy message?" First of all, we must realize the obvious-Jesus has only one Heart! And devotion to the Sacred Heart and The Divine Mercy are really inseparable. The Sacred Heart overflows with merciful love for us, and we are to overflow with love to others.

Pope Pius XI taught that devotion to the Heart of Jesus is "the summary of our religion." And in 1956 Pope Pius XII wrote in his encyclical on the Sacred Heart, "Consequently, the honor paid to the Sacred Heart is such as to raise it to the rank-so far as external practice is concerned-of the highest expression of Christian piety. For this is the religion of Jesus which is centered on the Mediator who is man and God, and in such a way that we cannot reach the Heart of God, save through the Heart of Christ."



The devotion to the Sacred Heart calls for reparation of sin, and the devotion should lead us to a deeper understanding of His infinite love and mercy for us. Our Lord told St. Faustina, "My daughter, know that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy, graces flow out upon the whole world. No soul that has approached Me has ever gone away unconsolated" (Diary, 1777).

And yet, when we look at the Image of the Merciful Savior, we see rays of Blood and Water emanating from the area of His pierced Heart. The rays are emanating outward-they are going out to a hurting world. That is perhaps one of the differences; the Sacred Heart enables us to get a deeper understanding of the infinite mercy and calls us to reparation, yet the Divine Mercy now calls us to live that message to a hurting world.

Our Lord asked St. Margaret Mary that the image of His Sacred Heart be honored and venerated by all the faithful. In His first apparition to her in 1673, He said, "My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with men that it can no longer withhold the flames of that burning love." And in a later

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FEASTS FOR APRIL

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of April are:

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| 1 Holy Thursday, Triduum | 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), Sunday |
| 2 Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, Triduum | 28 Peter Chanel (NZ, Feast); Louis Mary de Montfort; Gianna Molla, mother (Italy), Opt. Mem. |
| 3 Holy Saturday, Triduum | 29 Catherine of Siena, Memorial |
| 4 Easter Sunday, Solemnity | 30 Pius V; Bl. Marie del Incarnacion (Can), Opt. Mem. |
| 5 Monday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 6 Tuesday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 7 Wednesday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 8 Thursday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 9 Friday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 10 Saturday in the Octave of Easter, Solemnity | |
| 11 Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy), Solemnity | |
| 18 Third Sunday of Easter, Sunday | |
| 21 Anselm, Opt. Mem. | |
| 23 George; Adalbert, Opt. Mem. | |
| 24 St. Fidelis, Opt. Mem. | |

The feast of St. Mark (April 25) falls on Sunday and are superseded the Sunday liturgy. The feasts of St. Francis of Paola (April 2), St. Isidore (April 4), St. Vincent Ferrer (April 5), St. John Baptist de la Salle (April 7) are superseded by the Holy Week and Easter Week Liturgies. ☐

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2



*I thank you, Lord Jesus,
for always being with me,
for listening and answering my prayers.
After the cryosurgery of the cancerous tumor
in my native kidney,
I had a follow up visit with an oncologist
who told me,
"YOU'RE CANCER FREE!"
Lord God, your mercy and kindness is everlasting!!
I give you, Lord Jesus Christ,
my never ending thank you.
I am in your power.
Your will be done, oh Lord!!!
Mila Lumba*

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

WILL YOU HELP ME?

*By Pat Webster
www.thedivinemercy.org*

*See to the ministry which you have received
in the Lord, so that you may fulfill it.*

Colossians 4:17

Fifteen years ago, I happened to read a booklet in a local Catholic bookstore. Jesus was on the cover and the text read, "Will you help me?"

This little treasure of a booklet explained briefly the need for Divine Mercy in the world and our Lord's request to promote this devotion worldwide.

It also introduced my husband and me to St. Faustina Kowalska and outlined the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. We felt unable to do all the works of mercy, but perhaps, we thought, we could choose one that would work for us in our state in life.

My husband and I have a small manufacturing company on our property where we produce sewn rehab products for hospitals and nursing homes. We thought, "Why couldn't we use our industrial sewing machines to do some good for others?" Thus, it began.

Our parish priest at the time "persuaded" us to host a spiritual renewal program called "Renew" at our home. When the course was finished, we asked everyone if they wanted to join us to produce sewn products for the poor and for soup kitchens. Everyone jumped on board immediately, and after familiarizing ourselves with the little booklet I had found, we decided to call ourselves "The Servants of Divine Mercy."

For 13 years, we all joyfully set about our task each Tuesday evening for two hours at our little factory and made hats, shawls, and scarves. Afterwards, we would come into the house to have dessert and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Before we knew it, people had heard about us and the Chaplet and began asking for our prayers

for their intentions. One of our members suggested that we have a specific box in which we could put peoples' intentions. After the box was filled, we would burn the contents and offer these intentions to Divine Mercy. We called it the "God Box."

Through the years, we expected to be of some help to others, but we, too, received untold spiritual benefits, along with a bond between us that is still alive today. We have shipped over 35,000 pieces all over the world: to Romania for the children who lived in the sewers; Lithuania for orphans; Alaska for the homeless; the Sisters of the Poor in Scranton, Pennsylvania; various Indian reservations throughout the country; and numerous other soup kitchens and missions.

We are getting older now. My husband Bill has had a bout with cancer; the rest of us have had one thing or another. Six months ago, Betty Boginski passed away. She was the first of our group to do so. The one and only thing she requested for her funeral was that we, as a group, pray the Chaplet beside her casket (which, of course, we did).

Instead of flowers for her funeral, we decided to have her name engraved on the Memorial Wall at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. She will now receive the benefits of all the prayers and Masses of the Marians perpetually. We can't encourage you enough to do the same for your loved ones. Flowers fade, but the prayers of the Marians will serve as a permanent remembrance and benefit to those we love.

Thank you, God, for such a wonderful experience and for our precious friends - all because of Divine Mercy and that little booklet. ☐



SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

HOW JESUS SPEAKS TO ST. FAUSTINA (AND YOU) ABOUT CONFESSION

AN INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN TASSONE BY FR. EDWARD LOONEY,
AN EXCERPT

We have been living in unprecedented times with the Covid-19 pandemic and that has meant at times the limitation of the sacrament's availability. For months, Mass was celebrated virtually and continues to be since many do not believe it safe to return to Mass due to underlying health conditions. Covid-19 began during the season of Lent, a time when many Catholics avail themselves with the sacrament of Reconciliation. When is the last time you went to confession? Has the pandemic impacted that? Are you ready to go now? November is an excellent opportunity because of the indulgence for the Holy Souls and soon December and the Advent season will be upon us, another opportunity for us to find time to reclaim the importance of confession in our life.

Susan Tassone's book, *Jesus Speaks to Faustina and You*, helps us to hear the words of Jesus contained in the Saint's Diary, *Divine Mercy in my Soul*. What does Jesus have to tell us about going back to confession, whether we have been away for months or recently confessed our sins? Let's find out.

ON INDULGENCES.

Jesus says: "Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf.

Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice." (Diary, 1226).

Why do we have indulgences? Their purpose is to make up for penances omitted, poorly done or too light in comparison with the enormity of the sins. Blessed Fulton Sheen explained: "It is like a nail in a board.

Once you remove the nail — the sin — with confession, the hole which is the punishment remains to be filled by penance and reparation." Indulgences arise from the mercy of Jesus; with them we can satisfy our debts and the debts of the holy souls. They are an aid for growth toward spiritual perfection, inner change, or a deeper conversion of heart. We can do this "repair work" here on earth or in Purgatory. By going to confession regularly, we can gain many plenary indulgences for the holy souls, healing all the effects of their sins.

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Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

APRIL 2, 2021 | 9:00 PM AFTER
VENERATION OF THE CROSS
IN OUR RESPECTIVE PARISHES

IN LOS ANGELES:
VIA ZOOM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION - IS CANCELED IN OBSERVANCE OF BLACK SATURDAY — A DAY OF SILENCE

APRIL 3, 2021

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION EASTER CELEBRATION

APRIL 4, 2021
MASS BEGINS AT 11:00 AM
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOLLOW

IN LOS ANGELES:
VIA ZOOM

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 11, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
1111 MICHAEL WAY
LAS VEGAS, NV 89108

THE SACRED HEART AND THE DIVINE MERCY

apparition St. Margaret Mary wrote, "It must be honored under the symbol of this heart of flesh, whose image He wished to be publicly exposed....Wherever this sacred image would be exposed for public veneration He would pour forth His graces and blessings."

Now, I would like to emphasize another point. The Way of the Cross, of following Jesus in His footsteps, is not a cult of suffering. We are not to be so enamored by suffering that we go out and look for it. We do not have to walk in front of a car so as to injure ourselves. But we also know that this world is a valley of tears, and we are to pick up our cross and follow in His footsteps. I certainly have had enough trials and tribulations in my own life-as well as trying to raise six children-that I don't need to be looking for suffering!

What would you do if you won a cruise around the world? Wouldn't you call your family and tell all your friends? That is what we must do with the Divine Mercy message. So many people are hurting from the ravages of divorce, abuse, addictions, pornography, and more. They don't know where to turn or what to do next. They are like lost sheep waiting to be devoured by the world. And yet, the Divine Mercy message is also a message that needs internalization. It is about forgiveness, of truly trusting in God in difficult situations, and being merciful to others. It is about holding your tongue when you know you are right and are so angry. The Divine Mercy message is about love-for God is love, and he who abides in love, abides in God, and God in him.

So today, remember that you are a temple and vessel of the Holy Spirit. Let your actions be of God, and your heart be a heart of mercy, emanating the love of God to all you encounter. And avoid letting discouragement or anxiety enter your heart, and strive to be a reflection of the Merciful Jesus to all you encounter. ☐

HOW JESUS SPEAKS TO ST. FAUSTINA

JESUS ADVICE TO ENCOURAGE US TO STOP DELAYING OUR CONFESSION.

St. Faustina records Jesus' words: "Do not put off the Sacrament of Penance, because this displeases me." (Diary, 1464)

Going to confession isn't always at the top of our "to do" lists. We delay. The Church recommends monthly confession, but many people can't even remember the last time they went to confession. Jesus tells us that putting off the Sacrament of Penance displeases him. He wants us to take advantage of the sacrament, not for his sake, but for our sake. We are in the presence of the Divine Physician, who can truly heal our deepest wounds. Jesus understands that it isn't easy to go to confession. We don't like to admit our faults. It's hard to acknowledge our failures and sins. We can feel ashamed, embarrassed, or even unworthy of God's mercy. If you find yourself staying away from confession, remember that confession isn't a punishment; it's a grace. Be humble and trust him. It's the way that we experience the unlimited mercy of God. Confess your sins and rest in God's forgiveness for your sake, and the sake of the entire world.

WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO IF HE IS AFRAID TO CONFESS HIS SINS BECAUSE HE IS EMBARRASSED ABOUT SOMETHING THEY DID.

Jesus tells St. Faustina: "Be absolutely as frank as possible with your confessor." (Diary,1499) This is great advice. Don't hide anything. Reveal everything. St. Faustina teaches us to be sincere, humble and obedient when we confess our sins in God's Tribunal of Mercy. Open your heart with complete sincerity when you confess your sins, so Jesus can bring his solace and richest graces. Don't be afraid to tell your sins. God knows everything already. Come to Confession with total confidence in your merciful Savior. When we confess our sins, we've got to strip ourselves of pride; otherwise, the soul "puts on a mask and avoids everything that might bring it recovery." (Diary, 113) I spoke with a priest and asked him to share his thoughts on this passage. He said: Walking toward St. Peter's Basilica, you cross the Tiber River. As you walk over the Sant'Angelo Bridge, you see this

inscription: Hinc humilibus venia. "Here, there's forgiveness for the humble." Hinc retribuito superbis. "Here, there's punishment for the proud." As you enter the confessional, keep these words in mind. Want to make a good confession? Be humble and honest. Keep confession simple. When we confess sin, exhaustive detail isn't necessary. We shouldn't be vague or hide our sins. We ought to just say plainly what we did and leave it at that. Want to be close to God? Want to enjoy peace of heart? St. Faustina advises that we be frank with our confessor, because "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE A PERSON LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION AND THE STRENGTH TO DO SO; EVEN TO CATHOLICS WHO GO TO CONFESSION REGULARLY AND PRAY DAILY.

Jesus tells St. Faustina: "Pray for souls that they be not afraid to approach the Tribunal of My mercy. Do not grow weary of praying for sinners. You know what a burden their souls are to My Heart. Relieve My deathly sorrow; dispense my mercy" (Diary, 975). This is what we should do: pray for the Catholic faithful to go to Confession. Pray for long lines. A man was standing in line, waiting his turn to go to Confession. He was noticeably nervous about confessing his sins. The fellow standing behind him, who'd already offered a little prayer for him, leaned over and whispered: "Satan's the only one who should be anxious about confession. Be at peace." There's nowhere we're more loved than in the Tribunal of Mercy. There we're wrapped in the Father's mercy. Jesus comes to us, knocking on the door of our hearts, with a hand that was pierced for our sins. He'll heal our souls if we come humbly like the publican, who fell to his knees, beat his breast, and with eyes downcast, pleaded "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" No one approaches the confessional in "good shape," because, as St. John Chrysostom said: "Even if we reach the summit of virtue, we are saved only by God's mercy." Pray for reluctant souls, because in the Tribunal of Mercy, God works his greatest miracles.

FR. LOONEY'S CLOSING THOUGHTS.

In the gospels Jesus gave authority to the apostles to forgive sins and that has been given to each priest. When we go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and hear those words, "I absolve you from your sins" we know we are forgiven. Everybody wants to have peace of heart, mind, and soul. Confession and knowing we are forgiven is one key to all of this. Listen to the words of Jesus as given to St. Faustina and celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy as soon as you are able! You can get a copy of *Jesus Speaks to Faustina and You* from Sophia Institute Press. ☐

Fr. Edward Looney was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Green Bay in June 2015, and is an internationally recognized Marian theologian, writer, speaker, and radio personality. Author of the best-selling books, *A Lenten Journey with Mother Mary*, *A Heart Like Mary's* and *A Rosary Litany*, he has also written a prayer book for the only American-approved Marian apparition received by Adele Brise in 1859 in Champion, Wisconsin. He currently serves as Administrator of two rural Wisconsin parishes. You can follow him on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram at the handle.