



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday! This is such a great grace that the Lord gave to the Church. Just a quick reminder about the devotion to Divine Mercy. Back in the 1930s, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, a Polish nun, in order to reveal His merciful love to the world. You may remember the five key points of the message are: **FINCH – Feast, Image, Novena, Chaplet, Hour**. Today we celebrate the **Feast** – the Sunday after Easter. In 2000, St. John Paul the Great (at the request of Jesus to St. Faustina) made this a Feast for the universal Church.

So, what's so special about this Feast. On this day (TODAY!), our Lord promises that if we go to Confession on the Feast of Mercy: **no punishment!** He says:

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 graces 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 angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.... The Feast of Mercy emerges from My very depths of tenderness.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (*Diary* 699, emphasis added)

I hope that as you read that paragraph, which we believe came from the mouth of Jesus, that you heard how much love the Lord has for us. He does not want us to be frightened of Him, but rather to run to Him and His infinite mercy! See how He says that the Feast is to be a **"refuge and shelter for all souls"** and this **"especially for poor sinners"**. These are not the words of a God who is trying to "get us" or to *shame* us because of our sins. No, these are the words of a Father who is longing for His children to come back home; these are the words of a husband anxiously awaiting His adulterous wife to come back to His arms (remember that the summary of the Bible is "God wants to marry us").

"Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet"!!! Jesus is inviting us not to fear, but to **trust**. In another part of the *Diary*, Jesus speaks about how trust draws down His mercy:

The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is – trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is My desire to give much, very much. (*Diary* 1578)

Trust in God's mercy is everything! Trust is not the same as presumption, which says, "Since God is so merciful, I can keep on sinning." Another way of describing presumption is, "Better to ask for forgiveness than permission." No, trust recognizes the sin as wrong: hurtful to self and destructive to our relationship with God and others. Trust *tries* to change, but does not fret over sin, nor worry when, in one's weakness, one is unable to overcome it. Rather, trust keeps running to the arms of the God of mercy!

To conclude, I just want to throw in my favorite quote from the *Diary*:

Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace. (*Diary* 1074)

Jesus is inviting us to snuggle close to His Heart! On this Feast of Divine Mercy – and, in fact, every day of the year – may we *run* to the merciful Heart of Jesus – especially in the Sacrament of Confession – trusting greatly in His incredible, unfathomable, infinite ocean of mercy!