



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sorry for no article last week. With the early submission of the bulletin and the staff's limited hours, I was caught off guard!

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. While we are used to celebrating this with public Masses, Adoration, Confession, a sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy, we find ourselves stuck at home, unable to do all that we would want to. I encourage you to venerate the Image at home, and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet).

But at the heart of the Divine Mercy devotion is TRUST! "Jesus, I trust in You." As Jesus said to St. Faustina,

The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel, and that is – trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.

Jesus is calling us to trust in Him more than ever right now. It would truly be a shame, though, if in this time we learned trust (and remember that trust, lived out in our daily lives, looks like praise and thanksgiving to God ... even – nay – especially in difficult times), but then went back to our daily lives as if nothing ever happened.

Whether the coronavirus is from God's Hands or not, He is using it as a wakeup call. Will we wake up? He is asking us to trust not in ourselves, not in our economy (which is so fragile), not in our knowledge and technology (which cannot overcome the powerful forces of nature), not in politics, not in anything of this world. He wants us to place our undying trust in Him.

And this is the beautiful thing: God is trustworthy.

Maybe I should say that again: GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY!

While He will not always give us everything we ask for, He will give us everything that is good for us. He will always be faithful to us, while completely respecting our freewill. Even when we are not faithful, He remains faithful. Even when we sin repeatedly, willfully, Jesus says that at that moment, we have the GREATEST RIGHT to His mercy! We have but to reach out with our freewill to receive it.

Jesus compares His mercy to an *ocean*. Think about that. How big is the ocean? How deep? To use the analogy, we dip our toe in the ocean of mercy and think, "That's not big enough to take care of my sin." Oh! If only we would wade out a few yards, we would find His mercy is more than enough! In fact, it is in such superabundance that we have so much *more* mercy available to us than *we could ever need!*

At another time, Jesus told St. Faustina,

Prepare for great battles. Know that you are now on a great stage where all heaven and earth are watching you. Fight like a knight, so that I can reward you. Do not be unduly fearful, because you are not alone.

May we truly fight as Knights of God. May we fight to trust in God, not just today, but each day. May we truly live as Children of God, taking what we've learned and making them habits of grace for the rest of our lives.