



Divine Mercy

Find Strength and Light in My Passion

The message of Divine Mercy as conveyed to us by St. Faustina is inextricably linked with the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is in the Paschal Mystery that Jesus reveals to us the full measure of God's love. God *is* love. His is the Saving Love that took upon itself the immensity of the world's suffering. Sister Faustina's *Diary* is filled with images evoked by her contemplation of Our Lord's Passion.

On one occasion, after she had completed a Holy Hour, the scourged Jesus appeared to her in a vision. *O that unfathomable torment!* — she noted in her *Diary*. *How terribly Jesus suffered at the scourging post. O poor sinners, how, on the Day of Judgement, will you be able to meet that Jesus whom you now torment so much? His blood streamed to the ground, and in some places whole pieces of flesh fell away from His body. On His back I saw the odd exposed bone....Jesus uttered quiet moans and sighs* (Diary, 188).

Sister Faustina also had visions of Jesus being mocked and crowned with thorns: *When I dwell on the Lord's Passion during adoration, I often see Jesus in the following manner: after scourging Him, His tormentors take Him away and remove His garment, which by this time has adhered to His coagulating wounds. In tearing it off, they reopen His wounds; then they throw a rough and dirty red cloak over His shoulders and exposed wounds. In some places the cloak barely reaches His knees. They make the Lord sit down on a broken piece of beam, twist a crown out of thorns, and press it into His sacred head. Then, thrusting a reed into His hand, they mock Him, bowing to Him as before a king, and spitting on Him. Others grasp the reed out of His hand and beat His head, while*

still others pommel Him with their fists; meanwhile, Jesus bears this quietly. Who can comprehend Him — His pain? His eyes look down; I feel what is going on inside His sweetest of hearts. Let every soul reflect on what Jesus suffered at that moment. His tormentors vied with one another to insult Him. Where does such hatred come from, I wonder? It is man's sin that does this. It is here that Love and sin meet (Diary, 408).

Even as His tormentors heaped insults and outrages upon Him, Jesus bore it meekly: *Jesus said nothing, and only looked at me. In that look I felt the extent of His terrible suffering that we have not the slightest notion of what He endured for us before the crucifixion....When I see the tormented Jesus, my heart is torn in shreds. I think what will happen to sinners if they do not avail themselves of Jesus' Passion. In His Passion I see an entire ocean of mercy* (Diary, 948).

On a Good Friday, a moment before His crucifixion, the tortured Jesus once again charged His apostle of mercy to proclaim God's message to sinners: *You are My Heart. Tell sinners about My mercy* (Diary, 1666).

Christ often encouraged St. Faustina to ponder His Passion: *Today, during Mass, — she notes — I saw the suffering Jesus in His death agony on the cross. He said to me: My daughter, reflect often*

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy?

- Our Father...
- Hail Mary...
- I Believe in God...

On the large beads:

- Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the small beads:

- For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (10 times)

In conclusion:

- Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world (3 times)
- Jesus, I trust in You (3 times)

on the anguish I endured for you. In comparison with this, what you suffer for Me will seem as nothing. You are dearest to Me when you reflect on My Sorrowful Passion; unite your small sufferings with My Sorrowful Passion, that they may have infinite value before My Majesty (Diary, 1512).

Contemplating the Savior's suffering face yields many fruits. Not only does it impress upon us the price Jesus paid for our sins and, thus, enable us to fathom the depth of God's love, but it also helps us to bear our daily cross. *Jesus told me that I am dearest to Him when I contemplate His Sorrowful Passion. This contemplation will shed much light on my soul. Whoever wishes to be truly meek, let him contemplate Christ's Passion. When I contemplate the Passion of Jesus, many things I was unable to understand earlier become clear to me. I want to be like You, Jesus, like You — crucified, tormented, humiliated. Jesus,*

stamp Your meekness upon my heart and soul. Jesus, I love You to distraction — You, in all the prostration the prophet described, when suffering had wiped out all form or comeliness in You. That, my Jesus, is the state in which I love You to distraction. Eternal and unfathomable God, that love should bring You to such a state... (Diary, 267).

May every day become an occasion for us to dwell on the immensity of anguish that Christ suffered for us. God lavishes His blessings on those who reflect reverently on His Son's Passion: *One hour of contemplating my sorrowful passion is worth more than a whole year of bloody self-flagellation (Diary, 369). Few are the souls who reflect on My Passion with true compassion; I bestow the most graces on those who reflect devoutly on My Passion (Diary, 737).*

a testimony



A True Miracle

I was pregnant for the second time and delighted about it, for I wanted this baby. I felt very well. My doctors assured me the little one was developing normally. In my fifth month, I came down with what I thought was a case of stomach flu. I began vomiting, and experienced severe abdominal pains. Finally, alarmed, I checked into the hospital.

There I spent a whole week. I was told that my pregnancy was not in danger and that my pains were the result of a bacterial infection or, possibly, a stomach ulcer. With this diagnosis, they let me go. The following day, the same terrible abdominal pains returned. Pain relievers had no effect.

My husband called the ambulance; meanwhile, I lost consciousness. By the time I was picked up, I was in a critical state. My blood pressure was undetectable. The doctors could barely read my neck pulse. I couldn't feel my legs from the knees down. I lapsed in and out of consciousness....Suspecting appendicitis or a perforated ulcer, they

decided to operate. Only during surgery did the truth come out. I had had an ectopic pregnancy. The oviduct had burst, and I lost 2 liters of blood. The child was dead. The doctors said it was a miracle I had survived.

It had been a hard day for my family. But they had offered up a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for me, and God had heard them. All this had taken place on a first Friday. The operation lasted over two hours and ended at 2 p.m. I came to at exactly 3 p.m...!

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

A grateful reader ●



Cracow-Lagiewniki

World Center for the Devotion of Divine Mercy

Every year more and more pilgrims come to Lagiewniki to pray and receive the sacraments.

Besides the chapel of the Congregation Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, which is home to the world-famous painting of the Merciful Jesus, the Shrine provides a House of Prayer (with accommodation facilities and a catering service) as well as premises suitable for retreats, conferences and meetings. An information bureau service is also available.

Pilgrim groups interested in meeting the Sisters entrusted with the mission of spreading the Message of Mercy are kindly requested to make advance bookings by phone. Telephone: (+48) 12 2637997 recepja@pastorallodge.com.pl