



# The Power of Divine Mercy

A woman appeared at our monastery gate on Copernicus Street in Cracow. Though she was still under fifty, life had clearly taken its toll on her. She wanted to talk to the priest who was serving as chaplain at the brain clinic. Since I was filling in for him, the doorman called me over.

We had no sooner sat down than she began telling me all about her alcoholic husband. He had been a compulsive drinker even before they were married. His constant drinking made him increasingly more callous to the needs of the growing family. Alcohol inflamed a perverse hatred toward his wife and children. There were times when, returning home in a drunken state, and seeing a bottle of milk on the kitchen counter, he would deprive his children of it by pouring it into the sink. Predictably, his growing sons took to the bottle at a very early age, and become compulsive drinkers as well.

As the woman went on relating the horrors of her life, I wondered why she was telling me all this. As though guessing my thoughts, she ended her dramatic tale, saying: "Father, my husband reached such a state that he began drinking just about anything that had alcohol in it. Yesterday, on his way home, he tripped, fell, and hit his head against the street curb. An ambulance took him away. For several hours now he has been in a critical state at the brain clinic on Botanical Street". Several times she added with tears in her eyes: "Please, Father, come and see him. Pray for him for he is in danger of

losing his soul".

We went at once to the clinic. I found her husband in his death agony. He was calm as a lamb, breathing on a life-support system. Going to his side, I began praying the chaplet of divine mercy. As I did so, Jesus' words spoken to Saint Faustina came into my mind: "Though a soul be like a rotting corpse, if it should turn to My Divine Mercy, I shall not turn that soul away". In this situation, in the presence of this man, those words hit me like a bolt from the blue. The man died shortly afterwards.

Fr. Tadeusz Rostworowski SJ ●

**"I shall defend like my own glory every soul at the hour of death, if that soul should pray the chaplet, or should another pray it for a dying person, while yielding the indulgence over to the latter.**

**The act of praying the chaplet at a dying person's side appeases God's wrath. An ocean of mercy engulfs that soul. For the sake of My Son's sorrowful passion My Mercy shall be stirred to its very entrails."**

(Diary, 811)

## 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)