

The Divine Mercy Cenacle



LESSON FIVE

Mercy

Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy embrace the ideal that mercy is “love that seeks to lessen the misery of others.” “In Christ and through Christ, God ... becomes especially visible in His mercy.... Not only does He speak of it and explain it by the use of comparisons and parables, but above all, He Himself makes it incarnate and personifies it. He Himself in a certain sense is mercy” (Pope John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, n. 2).

Saint Faustina wrote, “Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person’s sins were as dark as night, God’s mercy is stronger than our misery. One thing alone is necessary: that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God’s merciful grace, and then God will do the rest” (1507*).

“Mercy has moved You to deign to descend among us and lift us up from our misery The inconceivable miracle of Your mercy takes place, O Lord. The Word becomes flesh; God dwells among us, the Word of God, Mercy Incarnate” (1745).

We must never doubt God’s mercy. It is the greatest attribute of God. He told St. Faustina, “Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace” (1074).

We must ask for His mercy, be merciful to others, and completely trust in His mercy. He is ready for us with open arms. Let us open our hearts and receive His mercy.

1. Can our misery ever be a match for His mercy?

Our Lord wants us to know and tell others of His unfathomable mercy, and to be merciful to others, as He is merciful to us. Jesus told St. Faustina: “Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy” (301). “My daughter, do you think that you have written enough about My mercy? What you have written is but a drop compared to the ocean. I am Love and Mercy itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted — it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I myself take care of it” (1273). Mercy is love that seeks to forgive, console, assist, and care for others in time of need. Mercy is an act of love done without expecting anything in return; it is done for love itself.

2. How do we tell others of His mercy?

Jesus said, “Do whatever is in your power to spread devotion to My Mercy. I will make for what you lack” (1074). We can spread this Message of mercy by our words and works of mercy. We likewise can do so by living an authentic Christian life of love of God and neighbor.

At times, we may feel like St. Faustina filled with doubt: "During a meditation on humility, an old doubt returned: that a soul as miserable as mine could not carry out the task that the Lord was demanding [of me]. Just as I was analyzing this doubt, the priest who was conducting the retreat interrupted his train of thought and spoke about the very thing I was having doubts about; namely, that God usually chooses the weakest and simplest souls as tools for his greatest works" (464).

3. Who has the greater right to His mercy?

Sin wounds the very depth of our souls. It brings on shame and separates us from one another. It robs our heart of peace and spiritual union with God and with our loved ones.

We are not left alone in our misery. Jesus said "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy. My mercy is confirmed in every work of My hands. He who trusts in My mercy will not perish, for all his affairs are Mine, and his enemies will be shattered at the base of My footstool" (723).

This is the Good News! Many feel that their sins are so severe that God could never love them, let alone forgive them. However, we know that Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners. He does not want the sinner to die but to repent and live.

4. How can Divine Mercy transform us?

God's merciful love will cleanse us from all our idols and impurities. God will give us a "new heart" and place a new spirit within us, taking from our bodies our stony hearts and giving us natural hearts (Ez 36:26).

Experience of Christ's merciful love restores to value the moral, physical, and material evil brought about by sin. It is able to draw good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in each person. For only God can do so.

Jesus makes it very clear how great is His love for us: "I am Love and Mercy Itself. My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners... It is for them that the blood and water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy (367). Let no soul fear draw near to me even though its sins be as scarlet (699). My Mercy is greater than your sin and those of the entire world (1485).

5. Why is forgiveness difficult to accept?

Sin creates barriers which are sometimes difficult to overcome. It is hard to forgive those who have hurt us. Likewise, it is also difficult to seek forgiveness from those that we have hurt. We fear their anger and their rejection. God does not want us to be trapped behind this wall of destructive unforgiveness so He reaches out to us: "Be not afraid of your Savior, O sinful soul, I make the first move to come to you for I know, that by yourself you are unable to lift yourself to me... be willing to talk openly with your God of Mercy who wants to speak words of pardon and lavish his graces on you. How dear your soul is to me!... I am your strength. I will help you. Do not argue with me about wretchedness... Your misery has disappeared in the depths of My Mercy (1485).

* References without a source listed with the number are taken from the *Dairy of Saint Maria Faustina*.



Marians of the Immaculate Conception

To learn more about The Divine Mercy message and devotion, the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, and Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy visit us online at www.thedivinemercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.