



DIVINE MERCY

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01262 ~ 413-298-3931

Spring 2006

A Message From The Rector



Photo by Steven LaChance

Fr. David Lord, M.I.C.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The winter thaw that we have all been yearning for has finally begun to warm the earth. So, too, as the seasons run their course, following one after the other, God comes in the various seasons of the year to thaw our hearts, at times made icy by sin.

At this special season of the year, it is His mercy that we adore and glorify and that we have recourse to, and which like spring, warms us so that we may continue to live our everyday life with the strength that God provides.

On February 22nd, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the revelation of The Divine Mercy Image to St. Faustina. In this issue of the Shrine Newsletter is an article by Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB, focusing on the significance of The Divine Mercy Image and the special urgency of the message of mercy for our times.

We recall at this special time of the year the promise Jesus made to St. Faustina, that if we go to confession some time before Mercy Sunday, and on Mercy Sunday receive Holy Communion in a state of grace detached from the slightest voluntary offense, the flood gates of His mercy will open wide for us. These are the days of "awe and wonder," as we rediscover together the goodness of Christ the Lord, who in His merciful way reveals God to man and man to himself. He is like the image we see reflected back to us from the mirror of our life. Sometimes, we can be afraid of what we see in the mirror as we approach the confessional, and this fear, which is common to us all, at times keeps us from experiencing the Lord's tenderness.


I have recently been considering the Sacrament of Reconciliation in my prayer time and it occurred to me that when we step into the confessional, it is as though we step into the future full of hope, closing the door behind us on the past and experiencing Christ anew through the ministry of the priest and the absolution we receive. And then the door of the confessional opens wide again, and we step forth renewed in strength and with the confidence that only God can give us.

So during these wonderful days, I invite you to adore and glorify His mercy by stepping into the confessional!

Sincerely in the hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. David, MIC

Fr. David Lord, MIC, Rector
National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

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the Immaculate
Conception





How Can You Prepare for Mercy Sunday?

Whether you are making a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy or celebrating Mercy Sunday in your own parish, this packet of purposefully written materials can help you prepare for this very special day. You may use the enclosed envelope to request your Mercy Sunday materials and please remember that your generous support allows my brother Marians and me to continue the ministry of Divine Mercy at this very special time.

Sincerely
Fr. David Lord, MIC
 Fr. David Lord, MIC

What Mercy Sunday means to me

by Wendy Flynn

Having attended Mercy Sundays on Eden Hill since the mid-80s, I began coming when only a few hundred people attended. Now it has grown to thousands of people.

One of the most memorable times on Mercy Sunday for me was when I was honored to be asked to hold an image of The Divine Mercy that pilgrims were allowed to venerate. I was overwhelmed by all of the many different faces who lined up to venerate the image. I was moved to tears by seeing what a beautiful artist Jesus is.

The graces associated with Mercy Sunday are so very special to me. The Lord has promised complete forgiveness of sin and punishment due to sin for those who participate in Divine Mercy Sunday, as found in the Diary of St. Faustina.

Each year it is a privilege to attend Mercy Sunday on Eden Hill and meet so many people from all over the world and be part of such a special feast.

Divine Mercy Sunday Schedule

Friday – April 21, 2006

7:00 pm Eucharistic Festival of Praise
 Solemn Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet-Shrine

Saturday – April 22, 2006

8:00 am Holy Mass – National Shrine
 9:00 am-3:00 pm Exposition and Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament
 3:00 pm The Divine Mercy Chaplet – Field Altar
 4:00 pm Vigil Mass – Field Altar – Fr. David Lord, MIC, Rector
 7:00 pm Solemn Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet-Shrine

Sunday – April 23, 2006

9:00 am-12:30 pm Exposition & Adoration of The Most Blessed Sacrament
 10:00 am-1:00 pm Spiritual Presentations – Field Altar
 1:00 pm Principal Mass – Field Altar
 Celebrant: Archbishop Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap.
 3:00 pm Solemn Celebration of the "Hour of Great Mercy,"
 Novena prayer, Chaplet,
 Benediction of The Most Blessed Sacrament,
 Blessing of Religious Articles – Field Altar

Confessions 9:00 am-5:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.
Pilgrim Food Tent 7:00 am-6:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.
Gift Shop Tents 9:00 am-6:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.
Enrollments & Masses 9:00 am-6:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.

Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine & Lourdes Grotto
 Open Sat. and Sun. until dusk.



The Image of the Merciful Savior

Reprint from MH BULLETIN
By Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB

In revealing, through Saint Faustina, the special urgency of the message of mercy for our times, Our Lord also revealed special ways of living out our response to His mercy.

In addition to a renewed emphasis on the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, these special means of drawing upon His mercy include the Image of the Merciful Savior, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Feast of Mercy, the Novena of Mercy, and prayer at the 3 o'clock hour – the hour of His death. All of these are elements of what we call devotion to The Divine Mercy.

Devotion to The Divine Mercy is not “just another devotion;” rather, it is what a devotion ought to be according to the root meaning of the word – a consecration, a dedication by vow. Devotion to The Divine Mercy is a total commitment to God, Who is Mercy itself. It is a covenant of mercy, a continuously renewed promise to trust in the mercy of God and to be merciful as He is merciful. In so doing, we receive the blessing of the beatitude which has been called a summary of the whole gospel, “Blessed are the merciful, for they

shall obtain mercy.” (Mt. 5:7 RSV)

After appearing to her in a vision, Our Lord asked Saint Faustina to have an image painted according to the pattern she saw. He explained to her that this image would be a vessel through which one may draw mercy from the infinite ocean of His Mercy. The image shows Jesus coming toward us with His right hand raised in blessing and His left hand touching His garment in the area of the heart where two great rays of light shine forth, one red and the other pale. He is dressed in a white garment and is radiant with light.

This image is an icon of Jesus as eternal High Priest, dressed in the white robes of the priest, coming with His hands raised in blessing, coming with salvation for those who await Him, coming with the gifts of life-giving water, blood and Spirit. The icon presents three scenes from scripture, simultaneously, like a triple-exposure photograph.

The most obvious scene is that of Easter Sunday night when Jesus appeared in the upper room, coming through the locked doors of the cenacle, coming with the victorious blessings of peace, showing His wounds, giving to His apostles the authority which He had received, breathing on them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (see Jn 20:19-31).

The second scene is Jesus at Calvary with His side pierced, blood and water flowing out as a fount of mercy for us – here seen as the red and pale rays representing the waters of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist (Jn 19:31-37).

The third scene is Jesus as the Eternal



The image of Jesus depicted here was painted by Eugene Kazimirowski in Vilnius (presently Lithuania) in 1934 under the direction of St. Faustina Kowalska.

High Priest, dressed in the white linen of the Old Testament priest coming out of the Holy of Holies – this time not from the sanctuary made by human hands, but from the Holy of Holies of Heaven, the very mercy seat of the Father. He comes as the “Merciful One” with blessing in His raised hand and the name of the Lord, God on His lips (Sir 50:18-21 and Lv 16:1-4). Jesus our High Priest of the New Testament “was offered once to take away the sins of [the] many: He will appear a





second time to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him” (Heb 9:28 RSV).

When He asked Saint Faustina to have the image painted, Our Lord insisted that a special inscription be included at the bottom of the painting, and He made several promises for those who would venerate His mercy through this image:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: “Jesus, I trust in You! I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul who will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I, Myself, will defend it as My own glory” (*Diary* 47-48, February 22, 1931).

The word *signature* suggests that the image should be signed just as you would sign a contract. So a beautiful way for us



The Divine Mercy image, painted by Robert O. Skemp.

to venerate the image of The Divine Mercy is to actually sign the picture with the inscription, *Jesus I trust in You!* along

with your own name and date. This signing of our pledge of trust in Jesus is our part of the solemn contract called the New Covenant or New Testament. Jesus, on His part, has already completed the covenant by sealing His gift of mercy with His blood. Our first and foremost response to His mercy is to trust in Him. His mercy is infinite; our trust must also be boundless and complete.

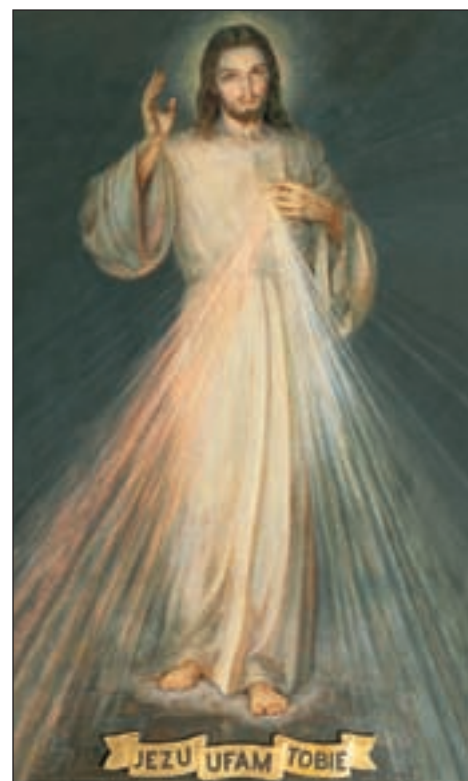
The Holy Spirit is always available to help us in our weakness if we ask Him with faith, and so, we ask, “Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with trust in the Merciful Jesus.”

The signed image of the Merciful Savior hung in our homes or kept in our prayer books can be a daily reminder that we have solemnly promised, “Jesus, I trust in You” – always and everywhere.

Some people have expressed a preference for one image over another, asking what the original was like. Such sentiments are not new. The original image, now hanging in a village church in Lithuania, was such a disappointment to Saint Faustina that she even complained to the Lord about it. Many artists have since tried to follow her directions in giving their interpretation of the Merciful Savior. To them and to all of us, Our Lord’s answer to Saint Faustina serves as a strong reminder not to let any one painting of the Merciful Savior become more important than the reality it represents:

“Once, when I was visiting the artist [Eugene Kazimierowski] who was painting the image, and saw that it was not as beautiful as Jesus is, I felt very sad about it, but I hid this deep in my heart. When we had left the artist’s house, Mother Superior stayed in town to attend to some matters while I returned home alone. I went immediately to the chapel and wept a good deal. I said to the Lord, ‘Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?’ Then I heard these words: **Not in the beauty of the color or of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in my grace**” (*Diary*, 313).

It should be clear, therefore, that the most important elements in devotion to the Merciful Savior are our faith and trust. Of course, an image can help us by reminding us of God’s love and mercy and the lengths to which Jesus went for our salvation. But we should beware of getting caught up in sentimentalism or excessive detail. Various images of the Merciful Savior have been painted; they are all but human attempts to capture a divine reality. There is no one version which can be called the authentic or



Painting in the chapel of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Cracow, Poland, where St. Faustina is entombed.

official image. Nevertheless, from Saint Faustina’s *Diary* we can say that the white robe, the hand raised in blessing and the red and pale rays emanating from the area of the heart are the prominent features of the vision she saw; these ought to characterize any image of The Divine Mercy. And the greatest concern for believers should be to let God form that image in their own soul – completely trusting in Him and becoming like Him in mercy.



Shrine Schedule

Mass and Devotions Schedule

Holy Mass

Monday-Friday

7:15 am (Apr. 24 - Oct. 27) & 2 pm

Saturdays & Holidays 8 am and 2 pm

(2 pm Sat. Mass does NOT fulfill Sunday's Obligation)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm (Apr. 29 - Oct. 28)

Sundays: 10:30 am and 2 pm

Rosary For Life ~ Daily 1:30 pm

Eucharistic Holy Hour of Adoration

Daily 1:00 pm

Chaplet of The Divine Mercy ~ Daily 3 pm

Confessions ~ Daily 1-2 pm and 3:30-4:15 pm or by appointment.

Weekly Events

Mother of Divine Mercy Charismatic Prayer Meeting

Thursdays at 7 pm, followed by Holy Mass with music by Heartsong.

Monthly Events

Charismatic Healing Mass

The Mother of Divine Mercy Prayer Group hosts a healing Mass on the last Thursday of every month at 7 pm. Music is provided by Heartsong.

Eucharistic Festival of Praise

First Friday of every month at 7 pm. Eucharistic adoration and preaching, music, praise and worship, fellowship.

For up-to-date information, visit www.thedivinemercy.org or call us at (413) 298-3931.

You Are Invited

You are invited to become a partner in the ministry of Divine Mercy by becoming a National Shrine of The Divine Mercy volunteer. There are many different opportunities available to share your time and efforts in this praiseworthy cause. Please consider becoming a National Shrine volunteer and call 413-298-1118 or send an e-mail to pilgrims@marian.org. Our staff will be happy to explain how you can become a partner in Divine Mercy ministry.

Divine Mercy Gift Shop

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CELEBRATING MERCY SUNDAY AT YOUR OWN PARISH

When planning your Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, keep in mind that every parish organizes a celebration that fits in with their needs.

In His revelations to St. Maria Faustina, Our Lord promised to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy, to those who go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, completely detached from any form of sin. Through this promise, Our Lord emphasized the infinite value of Confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. Please use these words of Our Lord to direct you in planning your Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (1109).

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).

The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).

Our Lord requested that the Image of The Divine Mercy be solemnly venerated on this day. **"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it" (341).**

Also, the works of mercy are an important part of the Divine Mercy devotion. Jesus told St. Faustina: **"Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy." (742).**

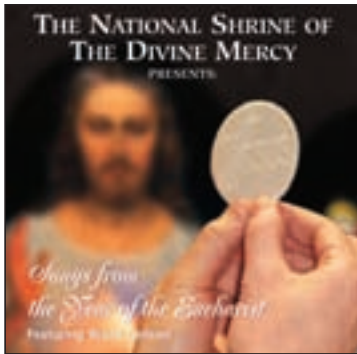
"I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it" (742).

If your parish plans a Holy Hour on Divine Mercy Sunday, here are some pious practices that you may wish to include:

Please coordinate any of these activities with your pastor:

- Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Benediction
- Pray or sing The Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Venerate the Image of The Divine Mercy
- Read from the Diary of St. Maria Faustina
- Be merciful to others, through actions, words and prayers on their behalf

To assist with your celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday at your own parish, please consider requesting the printed materials in the Divine Mercy Sample Packet (DMPK1) offered in the opening letter of this mailing.



National Shrine Released New CD in honor of the Year of the Eucharist

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy has released a new musical CD featuring songs based on the Year of the Eucharist. Titled

Songs from the Year of the Eucharist, the CD, featuring the National Shrine's music director, Bruce Carlson, it is the first of a new audio series from the Shrine.

Featuring 11 songs of new and traditional music performed by Carlson, *Songs from the year of Eucharist* is dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II. Says Shrine Rector, Fr. David Lord, MIC; "In October 2000, the unforgettable Pontiff, Pope John Paul II inaugurated the Eucharistic Year in order to stir and deepen Eucharistic piety of the people of God."

Fr. David continues, "This CD is to serve as a benchmark of lasting gratitude to both the Eucharistic Lord and the unforgettable Pontiff. It is my hope that in listening to the words and delighting in the musical score that accompanies them, this CD will provide a sort of 'continual sennade' of the Eucharist in the hearts of the faithful.

Songs from the Year of the Eucharist is available at the National Shrine gift shop for \$14.95. It may also be purchased online at thedinivemercygiftshop.com or by calling 888-484-1112.



Bruce Carlson, Director of Music at the National Shrine



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, Releases New Book

Father Donald Calloway, former Vice Rector of the National Shrine, has released his second book on a new series of authoritative

works on Mary. Entitled *The Virgin Mary and Theology of the Body*, Fr. Donald combines the Theology of the Body and the teachings on the Virgin Mary in the first such book of its kind.

The teachings address the reasons for God creating us as human beings with bodies and gender. Because of his studies in Mariology Fr. Donald thought to combine the Theology of the Body and teachings of the Virgin Mary into a book. Says Fr. Donald, "I just want to promote the teachings of the Church on Our Lady, and do it in a way that's very clear and very loving."

Ten writers, including Fr. Donald contributed essays. The renowned scholars include: Fr. Basil B. Cole, OP, STD, Msgr. Authur B. Calkins, STD, Donald DeMarco, PhD, Gloria Falcao Dodd, STD, Fr. Nicholas L. Gregoris, STD, Fr. Paul M. Haffner, STD, Kenneth Howell, Ph.D, Sr. M. Isabell Naumann, ISSM, STD, Michele M. Schumacher, STD, and Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, STL.



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

The book covers such topics as: "The Immaculate Conception in the Life of the Church;" "How do Church teachings on the Immaculate Conception effect our understanding of human conception?" "The Renewal of the Church, and what it means to be human." Last year, Fr. Donald edited his first book, *The Immaculate Conception in the Life of the Church*. "This is going to be the envy of a lot of Catholic presses," predicts Fr. Donald, of his second book. "There are tons of commentaries on the Theology of the Body, but very little has been done to include the Marian dimension."

The cost is \$14.95, and it is available by calling the National Shrine's Gift shop at: 888-484-1112.

Bus Pilgrimage Registrations

Our new 2006 registration packets are ready and waiting for you. In order to better serve your personal and spiritual needs for Mercy Weekend or for any other time during the Pilgrimage season, your bus or group must be pre-registered to visit the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Please call 413-298-1118 or e-mail us at pilgrims@marian.org to register your group and receive further information.

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Editor: Carol Scott-Mahoney

Correspondence is welcome. Please forward all comments and stories to the Editor at the National Shrine.
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Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy visiting the National Shrine? Have you ever considered volunteering a few hours of your time?

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy is currently seeking dedicated volunteers to work year round in a variety of areas as lectors, greeters, office help, and gift shop assistance. No experience is necessary! All are welcome!

Please consider joining our team as we welcome pilgrims from around the world.