



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

Selected prayers of Saint Faustina

4th edition

The Shrine of the Divine Mercy
Kraków 2002

SAINT FAUSTINA

The task of “proclaiming and introducing into life” the mystery of God’s mercy, and imploring that mercy for the world, which the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II places before the entire Church, was entrusted to Saint Faustina as her life’s witness and mission.

Sister Faustina was born in 1905 in the village of Głogowiec near Łódź as the third of ten children in the family of Marianna and Stanisław Kowalski. From her childhood she was distinguished by a love for prayer, diligence at work, obedience and a sensitivity for the poor. She attended not quite three years of elementary schooling, and later, as a teenager, left her family home to work as a domestic servant.

At the age of twenty she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in which, as Sister Maria Faustina, she spent thirteen years of her life performing the duties of cook, gardener, and doorkeeper. Her life, though seemingly very ordinary, monotonous and drab, concealed in itself an exceptionally profound union with God. From her

childhood she desired to become a great saint, and she consistently strove toward that goal, working together with Jesus for the salvation of lost souls, even to the extent of offering her life as a sacrifice for sinners. Therefore, her life as a religious was marked with the stigma of suffering, but also with extraordinary mystical graces.

It was to this religious, who though simple, had boundless trust in God, that Jesus directed that amazing declaration, *In the Old Covenant I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart* (1588*).

- The mission of Saint Faustina consists in:
- reminding the world of the truth of our faith revealed in Holy Scripture about the merciful love of God towards every human being, even the greatest sinner;
 - conveying new forms of devotion to Divine Mercy and
 - initiating a great movement of devotees and apostles of Divine Mercy who would lead

* The numbers shown in brackets after each quote refer to passages in Saint Faustina's *Diary*.

people toward the renewal of Christian life in the spirit of this devotion; in other words, in the evangelical spirit of a childlike confidence in God and an active love of neighbor.

Worn out and weakened by tuberculosis and the sufferings she bore in sacrifice for sinners, Sister Faustina died in the odor of sanctity in Kraków on October 5, 1938 at the age of 33.

On the first Sunday after Easter, April 18, 1993, in St. Peter's Square in Rome, Pope John Paul II declared her one of the community of the blessed. On the following day during his general audience he said, "God has spoken to us through the spiritual wealth of Blessed Sister Faustina Kowalska. She left to the world the great message of Divine Mercy and an incentive to complete self-surrender to the Creator. God endowed her with a singular grace that enabled her to experience His mercy through mystical encounter and by a special gift of contemplative prayer.

Blessed Sister Faustina, thank you for reminding the world of that great mystery of Divine Mercy; that 'startling mystery,' that inexpressible mystery of the Father, which today every individual and the whole world need so very much."

**THE DEVOTION
TO THE
DIVINE MERCY**

according to the forms given to

Saint Faustina

Pope John Paul II
canonized Saint Faustina in Rome
on April 30, 2000.

THE ESSENCE OF THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

1. Trust expresses the disposition we should have toward God. It includes not only the virtue of hope, but also a lively faith, humility, perseverance and remorse for sins committed. It is simply the attitude of a child who trusts boundlessly in the merciful love and omnipotence of the Heavenly Father in every situation.

Trust is so essential to the Divine Mercy devotion that without it the devotion cannot exist; this is because our worship of the Divine Mercy is first and foremost an expression of trust. An attitude of trust alone (even without the practice of other forms of the devotion) already assures the trusting soul of grace that it will receive God's mercy. *I desire, Jesus promised, to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy (687). Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust. Sinners will attain justification, and*

the just will be confirmed in good. Whoever places his trust in My mercy will be filled with My divine peace at the hour of death (1520).

Trust is not only the essence or soul of this devotion, but also the condition for obtaining graces. *The graces of My mercy, Jesus told Sister Faustina, are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is—trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is my desire to give much, very much* (1578). *The soul which will trust in My mercy is most fortunate, because I Myself take care of it* (1273). *No soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame. I delight particularly in a soul which has placed its trust in My goodness* (1541).

2. Mercy expresses the disposition we should have towards every human being. Jesus told Sister Faustina, *I demand . . . 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. I am giving you three ways of exercising*

mercy toward your neighbor: the first—by deed, the second—by word, the third—by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy (742).

This attitude of an active love of neighbor is also a condition for obtaining graces. Jesus recalled the Gospel maxim when He said, *If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgement. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgement with their mercy (1317).*

The Lord desires that those who worship Him perform at least one act of mercy every day. *My daughter, Jesus told Sister Faustina, know that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy, graces flow out upon the whole world. . . . I desire that your heart be an abiding place of My mercy. I desire that this mercy flow out upon the whole world through your heart. Let no one who approaches you go away without that trust in My mercy which I so ardently desire for souls (1777).*