



## DIVINE MERCY

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II announced the canonization of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska and, soon after, decreed that, *"throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday."* The primary celebration on this day is, as always, the Second Sunday of Easter, but within that, today's reading from the book of John tells us of the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation. How appropriate it is that we should celebrate God's abundant mercy on this day!

In an address from the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Poland on June 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II gave the following reflections on this devotion to Divine Mercy: *"There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy—that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above His weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God."*

*"In this place we become particularly aware of this. From here, in fact, went out the Message of Divine Mercy that Christ Himself chose to pass on to our generation through Faustina. And it is a message that is clear and understandable for everyone. Anyone can come here, look at this image of the merciful Jesus, His Heart radiating grace, and hear in the depths of his own soul what Faustina heard: 'Fear nothing. I am with you always.' (from her diary, 586)"*

*"The Church re-reads the message of mercy in order to bring with greater effectiveness to this generation at the end of the millennium, and to future generations, the light of hope."*

*"At no time and in no historical period—especially at a moment as critical as our own—can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it. 'The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word "mercy," moves away from God, and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy with loud cries.'"*

*I pray unceasingly that God will have mercy on us and the whole world."*

# What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for younger saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others.  
What are they?
  - a. by faith, hope, and charity
  - b. by deed, word, and prayer
  - c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. Name the nun who had a vision of Jesus that was the beginning of the devotion to the divine mercy of Jesus.
3. What is one way that you can feed the hungry?
4. What is one way that you can forgive those who do you harm?
5. What is one way that you can clothe the naked?
6. What is one way that you can counsel those who need advice?
7. What is one way that you can be patient with others?
8. Recite your memory verse for this month.

# What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for younger saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others.

What are they?

- a. by faith, hope, and charity
- b. by deed, word, and prayer**
- c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

2. Name the nun who had a vision of Jesus that was the beginning of the devotion to the divine mercy of Jesus.

**Sister Faustina Kowalska**

3. What is one way that you can feed the hungry?

**Answers will vary.**

4. What is one way that you can forgive those who do you harm?

**Answers will vary.**

5. What is one way that you can clothe the naked?

**Answers will vary.**

6. What is one way that you can counsel those who need advice?

**Answers will vary.**

7. What is one way that you can be patient with others?

**Answers will vary.**

8. Recite your memory verse for this month.

**Prayer from the Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**NOTE:** Grades 4, 5, 6 should memorize the entire prayer. Grades, K, 1, and 3 should be able to recite the second paragraph, and they are invited to memorize the whole prayer as well.

# What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for older saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others. What are they?
  - a. by faith, hope, and charity
  - b. by deed, word, and prayer
  - c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. To whom does Jesus promise His mercy?
3. Divine Mercy Sunday is always celebrated
  - a. the first Sunday after Easter.
  - b. on Saint Patrick's day.
  - c. the week before Pentecost.
4. Write the letter "C" on the line next to the Corporal Works of Mercy and the letter "S" next to the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Feed the hungry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Instruct the ignorant.

\_\_\_\_\_ Counsel the doubtful.

\_\_\_\_\_ Forgive all injuries.

\_\_\_\_\_ Give drink to the thirsty.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clothe the naked.

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit the sick.

\_\_\_\_\_ Comfort the sorrowful.

\_\_\_\_\_ Shelter the homeless.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bear wrongs patiently.

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit the imprisoned.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bury the dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pray for the living and the dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ Admonish the sinner.

6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

# What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for older saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others. What are they?
  - a. by faith, hope, and charity
  - b. by deed, word, and prayer
  - c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

2. To whom does Jesus promise His mercy?  
Jesus promises His mercy to all who ask sincerely for forgiveness.

3. Divine Mercy Sunday is always celebrated
  - a. the first Sunday after Easter.
  - b. on Saint Patrick's day.
  - c. the week before Pentecost.

4. Write the letter "C" on the line next to the Corporal Works of Mercy and the letter "S" next to the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>  C  </u> Feed the hungry.                  | <u>  S  </u> Instruct the ignorant. |
| <u>  S  </u> Counsel the doubtful.             | <u>  S  </u> Forgive all injuries.  |
| <u>  C  </u> Give drink to the thirsty.        | <u>  C  </u> Clothe the naked.      |
| <u>  C  </u> Visit the sick.                   | <u>  S  </u> Comfort the sorrowful. |
| <u>  C  </u> Shelter the homeless.             | <u>  S  </u> Bear wrongs patiently. |
| <u>  C  </u> Visit the imprisoned.             | <u>  C  </u> Bury the dead.         |
| <u>  S  </u> Pray for the living and the dead. | <u>  S  </u> Admonish the sinner.   |

6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

**Prayer from the Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**NOTE:** Grades 4, 5, 6 should memorize the entire prayer. Grades, K, 1, and 3 should be able to recite the second paragraph, and they are invited to memorize the whole prayer as well.