



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

Trust

Recently, I watched the two-minute trailer of a new movie and it really inspired me to thank God for the incredible gift and blessing of my father. It would have been easy to ponder my dad's humility, faithfulness

and life of service for quite some time. However, in a matter of seconds, my focus turned to Our Heavenly Father and His never-ending love and mercy.

How do we know that Our Father in Heaven loves us?

God created us and knows each of us by name; He always desires what is best for us. Further, God shows us His unending care and compassion by giving up His Son to die the most painful and horrible death on the Cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we can be reunited with Him. In fact, the central theme of the entire Bible is the Father's merciful love for us!

In this regard, throughout the Catholic Church worldwide, the Sunday after Easter – April 8th – is called Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast is based upon what we already know and believe from the Scriptures as well as messages that Jesus gave to Sr. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, about God's mercy and how much we need it. Jesus Himself requested that the first Sunday after Easter celebrate His Divine Mercy. The image shown in the banner above, revealed to Sr. Faustina, portrays the Risen Christ bringing mercy to the whole world and fulfills Jesus' request that the image contain the signature, "Jesus, I trust in You."

Jesus told Sr. Faustina: "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary of St. Faustina, 300) This Sunday is an opportune time to reflect on how God's mercy can overcome our misery, which is a result of our sin. Jesus said, "My mercy is greater than your sins, and those of the entire world. I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come then with trust to draw graces from this fountain." (1485) This fountain of mercy is most especially received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we experience forgiveness

and healing in a tangible way.

Jesus said, "When you go to confession, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul..." "...Immerse yourself entirely in My mercy with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy." (1602) "Open your soul in confession to Me, and I will fill it with My light." (1725)

What does it mean to trust Jesus?

We are to trust in Our Lord's goodness that He will help us through difficulties and trials in our lives. The word trust is significant as it is a key aspect of the Divine Mercy message from Jesus. Trust is not blind, wishful thinking but hope based upon the Person who died for us so that we can live forever in Heaven and who gives Himself totally to us in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus is the Person we can trust completely but even this trust requires God's grace and our continual response to it.

The Psalm after the First Reading for Divine Mercy Sunday puts words around what it means to trust Him.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and He has been my Savior. (Psalm 118:13-15)

In the Gospel we hear Jesus say three times, "Peace be with you." We can experience this very peace when we learn how to trust Jesus and let Him guide us in our daily lives – above all when we are "hard pressed" and "falling".

St. John records the account of Thomas putting his finger in the wound in Christ's side so that we would believe that Jesus is indeed alive – risen from the dead! And he wrote it so that with trust we "may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief [we] may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

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