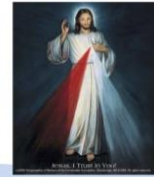




EADM Carolinas

Cenacles of The Divine Mercy

St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkway
Charlotte, NC 28277
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Jesus, I Trust in You!

For God and Souls Winter Edition 2018

Editor Ralph Sullivan

Wash Away Your Sins on Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Novena

In preparation for the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday Jesus asked for a Novena to be prayed beginning on Good Friday. He gave St Faustina an intention for each day with the last day's intention being the most difficult of all, **the lukewarm and indifferent.**

He said, "These souls wound My heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father take this cup from me, if it be your will.' For them the last hope of salvation is to flee to My Mercy (Diary 1228)."

3 O'clock Hour of Great Mercy

At three o'clock, Implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and if only but for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly at the moment of My agony and abandonment.

This is the Hour of Mercy for the whole world. . . In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion (Diary 1320)."

Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus said to Sister Faustina, "I want this image blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the feast of Mercy (Diary 49). On that Day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary 699). Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy (Diary 300)."

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina as the first saint of the new millennium and instituted the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy Retreat June 9, 2018



Father Ken Geraci, of the Fathers of Mercy, will preach a special retreat for Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (aka members of Cenacles of Divine Mercy) on Saturday, June 9th starting with the 9 am Mass followed by 2 presentations in the Banquet Room and adjourning at 12 noon.

Father will address:

- When you hear His call
- Discerning God's will
- The power of prayer
- Balancing one's calendar
- The spirit of apostleship and
- Maintaining the fire with-in to proclaim the message of His mercy.

Father is also happy to visit with young men considering the call to priesthood. Please pass the word **Jesus I Trust in You!**

Divine Mercy Movement Counters Culture of Death

by Ralph Sullivan

When then Pope John Paul II identified the evils of society as the Culture of Death he also spoke of its antidote as, "Mercy being mankind's last hope for salvation." His teachings; his declaring of the Feast of Mercy; his Canonization of St. Maria Faustina and the imperative to spread the message of Divine Mercy, all contributed to what has become the Divine Mercy Movement.

A movement begins with an idea that catches fire among the grassroots and emerges from the ground up into a force for good or evil. Some fizzle out and others endure. In the United States the Divine Mercy Movement has taken hold in some areas and has been slow to take root in others. It is now taking hold in the Charlotte Diocese at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

If politicians would take aim at the ideology of the culture of death it would not be as complex as some would like to make it. The question: *what contributes to a Culture of Death?* - when applied to specific situations - should clarify actions needed to defeat this ideology. Doing so would, however, find opposition from both ends of our political spectrum. Does the Death Penalty contribute to the Culture of Death? Does elective abortion contribute to the Culture of Death? Does war contribute to a culture of death? Yes, but it goes much further even within families, schools, the justice system and beyond.

Many contributors to a culture of death also seem to be "off limits" to serious analysis, such as the nightly agenda of TV shows featuring violent crime; some rap music where killing police officers is glorified; movies featuring shootings and bombings to excite audiences; degradation of women as casual sex objects; drug trafficking, etc. Yes, these and many more examples contribute to a culture of death. Just watching newscasts is a constant barrage of carnage.

So, what contributes to a Culture of Life? This question presupposes, what spurred the Divine Mercy Movement? Jesus chose a young uneducated nun to be his Apostle of Mercy to spread His Divine Mercy Message to all. That's as grassroots as you can get but with God, "All things are possible." Not many predicted the fall of the iron curtain.

Like Mary, Faustina trusted and was blessed by her faith. Jesus told her to write down every one of His words in her diary - because they were meant to save the souls of many even after her death. He instructed Sister Faustina that, there are three ways to show mercy to your neighbor - by Deeds, WORD and Prayer. If, you cannot do one, you could always do another.

It is often asked, "if there is no new revelation in Faustina's diary beyond what is already in Scripture, why is the Divine Mercy Message important?" The answer is not so much a theological one but one of human behavior.

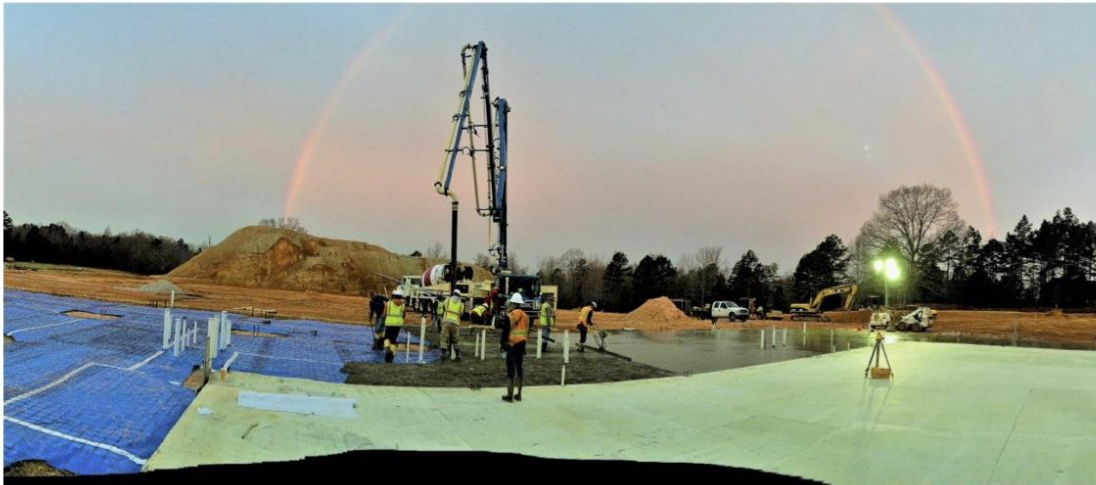
Throughout Salvation History, mankind turns to God and is faithful but then his faith wanes and he turns to the ways of the world. It is at such times that God calls forth new voices from the remnants to lead us back into covenant. That is why St. Pope John Paul II called St. Faustina, the first saint of the new millennium, the "Saint for our Times."

In a sense, the Divine Mercy Message is an extension of the devotion to the Sacred Heart. Many of us do not realize that St. Margaret Mary Alacoque appeared to Sr. Faustina and became one of Faustina's patron saints. In choosing to appoint Sister Faustina as His Apostle of Mercy, Jesus also granted her several instruments of mercy to foster her mission and bless those who embraced it.

Those instruments are: The Feast of Divine Mercy to be celebrated the first Sunday after Easter; the Image of Divine Mercy with the inscription, "Jesus, I Trust in You"; the Novena of Divine Mercy; the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the 3 pm Hour of Great Mercy. These prayer instruments enable us to apply them to the quest of Divine Mercy which is *love shared to relieve the misery of others*.

In Genesis 9: 8-17, "God makes a covenant with Noah and his descendants and, remarkably, with all the animals who came out of the ark: never again shall the world be destroyed by flood. The sign of this solemn promise is the appearance of a rainbow."

It is not surprising that when St. Matthew South, dedicated to the Divine Mercy, was under construction, it was surrounded by a beautiful rainbow. Many believe that it is a sign that the proposed Shrine of Divine Mercy Saints, depicting persons chosen by God to bring a wayward flock back into covenant, is indeed the will of God.



In these difficult times, never has Divine Mercy been more needed. It is up to us to see that St. Faustina's mission is accomplished. All persons are made in the image and likeness of God. We contribute to the Culture of Life whenever we reach out to those in need. How? "Jesus said, "As I have done for you, so must you do for others."

Does what we are contemplating contribute to the Culture of Life or the Culture of Death? The evil one does not want you to ask that question. How blessed we are when we proclaim, "Jesus, I Trust in You!"



Wash Away all Your Sins on

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 8, 2018

Attend Sunday Mass - Venerate The Divine Mercy Image

Receive The Eucharist - Go To Reconciliation

(within 20 days before or after)

Gain Remission of Sin & Punishment

Come to 3 PM Hour of Great Mercy

"In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of me, in virtue of My Passion." (Diary, 1320)

**Prayers, Homily, Singing of Chaplet, Blessing with
St. Faustina's 1st Class Relic**

Enjoy Divine Mercy Cenacles Hospitality

Immediately following in Banquet Room

Refreshments & Divine Mercy Materials

In-Home Cenacle Signups in Narthex

**after the Divine Mercy Sunday Masses and in
Banquet Room after the 3pm Hour of Great Mercy**

St. Matthew Catholic Church

8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy Charlotte NC 28277



Father Vincent Fortunato



Divine Mercy Movement Transforming Culture of Hate

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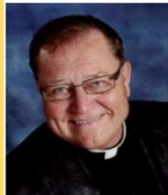
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Father Vincent Fortunato, OFM Cap. is a member of the Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi. He is among the priests chosen by Pope Francis to be a Missionary of Mercy. Among his examples of how Mercy brings about Love, he cites Blessed Solanus Casey, Saint Faustina, Saint Andre Bisset, Saint Padre Pio and Saint Leopold Mandic. Their gifts of humility, love and mercy transformed, instead of chastising, wayward souls



Deronda Metz is Director of Social Services for The Salvation Army's Center of Hope. She is an advocate of Divine Mercy for women and children who are not only homeless but who are also in need of life skills that will allow them to go from transitional housing into permanent housing. Saint Gabriel and Saint Matthew Catholic Churches partner with them to furnish apartments and offer mentoring to their clients.



Deacon James Witulski serves at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the University area of Charlotte. He promotes Divine Mercy Holy Hours at the parish and an annual Polish Mass. As *Diocesan Liaison for Catholic Jail Ministry for Mecklenburg County*, he personally meets with inmates and leads his 20 jail ministry volunteers in serving the incarcerated. Deacon Witulski and his volunteers "Teach Hope!" and that "No sin is greater than the Divine Mercy of God, if one repents." Deacon Witulski will share the healing power of Divine Mercy in his ministry.



Deacon Gary Schrieber, is Spiritual Director of Cenacles of The Divine Mercy at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte NC. He is serving as the emcee of this event as well as offering a presentation on The Divine Mercy Movement taking hold in the Carolinas. He also presides at the Divine Mercy Holy Hours the first Thursday of the month and facilitates a Cenacle which meets in his home.

**9TH ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY
DAY OF HEALING**

Part I: Worship-Sanctuary

9:00 am - Mass, Homily, Singing of Chapelet, Anointing of Sick, Blessing with St. Faustina's Relic
Main celebrant:
Father Patrick T. Hoare



Part II: Symposium (\$35) - Banquet Room Divine Mercy Transforming Culture

Resource Tables open: meals/breaks

- 10:15 am Registration-Continental Breakfast
- 10:45 am Welcome & Hymn: *Mary's Song*
- 11:00 am Mercy is Transformative
-Deronda Metz, Center of Hope
- 11:45 am Box Lunch/Resource Tables
- 12:15 pm Jail Ministry and Mercy
Deacon James Witulski, Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
- 1:00 pm 15 Minute Break/Vendor Tables
- 1:15 pm Carolinas Divine Mercy Movement
- Deacon Gary Schrieber
- 1:30 pm Keynote Address:
Together we can transform Culture of Hate to Culture of Love & Mercy
Father Vincent Fortunato, OFM Cap
- 2:45 pm Resource Tables
- 3:00 pm Close: America

October 6, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm

St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway
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Limited Seating, Register at:
www.stmatthewcatholic.org/divinemercy