

+++ *From the Pastor* +++  
*The Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday,*  
*April 12, 2015*

### The Church Celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday Today

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, was officially declared by Pope Saint John Paul II, to be Divine Mercy Sunday. On February 22, 1931, a young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, saw a vision of our Lord Jesus Christ with rays of mercy streaming from the area of His Sacred Heart. He told her to have an image painted to represent this vision and to sign it, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

Calling her the Apostle and Secretary of His Mercy, Our Blessed Lord ordered Sr. Faustina to begin writing a diary so others would learn to trust in Him. In a series of revelations, He taught her that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy. By the time of Sr. Faustina's death in 1938, devotion to the Divine Mercy had already begun to spread throughout Eastern Europe.

*To keep holy Divine Mercy Sunday the great sacrament of God's mercy, love and peace--the Sacrament of Penance--will be administered from 2:00-3:00 PM. Following the Sacrament of Penance, a Divine Mercy Holy Hour will be held at 3:00 PM. The Holy Hour will consist of Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the praying of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary; the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.*

Pope Saint John Paul II taught us: "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.." Further, he said, "there is nothing 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."

May we all invoke the love and mercy of Jesus Christ today and everyday of our lives.

### *More About Divine Mercy Sunday*

On the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska as the first saint of the New Millennium indicating his great devotion to The Divine Mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today Pope Francis urges us to throw ourselves upon the mercy of Jesus Christ and beg Him to heal our souls and to heal the world of its many ills.

