

Messenger of Divine Mercy

Publication of the Marian Helpers Association in Great Britain

Winter 4 [66] 2014



Winter, 2014



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dear Marian Helpers,

When we think about Christmas our first thought is usually about family. If we have a wonderful and warm experience of our family then we love Christmas as a special time when the whole family gathers around the table. Many of us connect Christmas with being together singing Christmas Carols, eating a delicious dinner with turkey and Christmas pudding. And of course an important element of Christmas – gifts! But even if our memory of family is painful and sad this holy time of Christmas shows us that even a broken and suffering family is something holy.

When we look at the Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph we can feel peace and joy emanating from them. The presence of Emmanuel - God with us - helps us to see the mystery of the family in a different dimension. According to God's plan of creation a family is a place where one is born. The family is the first community of persons where we are loved and where we learn to love. In a family we mature as a human person destined to go out from oneself and enter into relationships with other persons. We are a gift of God and we learn how to be a gift to others. In a family we experience unity – to be one with others – father, mother, children but one family. Unity brought about by the love of God, by the love of husband and wife fruitful with children.

Many families go through various difficulties and sufferings. Sometimes the situation seems to be overpowering. No solution or help seems to be possible. But for us, Christians, there is no situation or suffering where Christ cannot help. Jesus Christ who has died on the cross for our sins, who has risen from the dead brings us the Good News – there is a new life, in him we are free from our slavery to sin and death, we are loved by God, and in him we can love each other. In him our sins are forgiven and in him we can forgive others.

The Church proclaims the Good News to all families, especially those in crisis; Christ has power over your suffering and problems. He can bring to life what is dead in your marriage or family.

This issue of the Messenger of Divine Mercy we would like to dedicate to all families. We hope that you will find some help in it.

Entrusting you all and your families into the hands of our merciful God

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr John, MSc

Messenger of Divine Mercy

Quarterly magazine of the
Association of Marian Helpers
of the Congregation of
Marian Fathers in
Great Britain



The Association of Marian Helpers assists the Congregation of Marian Fathers in uniting all the faithful who want to develop spiritually, to imitate our Lady's life, to proclaim to the whole world the truth of Divine Mercy according to Mary's example and under her guidance. Members pray, do penance and acts of mercy which they offer to God in the intentions of the Church, for the souls suffering in purgatory and praying for priestly and religious vocations. By their prayers and work and, if possible, material help, they support the apostolic and missionary work of Marian Helpers and share in the fruits of the daily masses, prayers and good works of the Marian fathers and brothers.

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Marian Fathers Charitable Trust
Reg. Charity 1075608

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ISSN 2053-6445

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Homily...

Pope Francis in the Holy Land 2014

Manger Square, Bethlehem
25th May 2014

www.vatican.va

**"This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger"**

(Lk 2:12).



What a great grace it is to celebrate the Eucharist in the place where Jesus was born! I thank God and I thank all of you who have welcomed me on my pilgrimage: President Mahmoud Abbas and the other civil authorities; Patriarch Fouad Twal and the other bishops and ordinaries of the Holy Land, the priests, the good Franciscans, the consecrated persons and all those who labour to keep faith, hope and love alive in these lands; the faithful who have come from Gaza and Galilee, and the immigrants from Asia and Africa. Thank you for your welcome!

The Child Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is the sign given by God to those who awaited salvation, and he remains forever the sign of God's tenderness and presence in our world. The angel announces to the shepherds: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child...".

Today too, children are a sign. They are a sign of hope, a sign of life, but also a "diagnostic" sign, a marker indicating the health of families, society and the entire world. Wherever children are accepted, loved, cared for and protected, the family is healthy, society is more healthy and the world is more human. Here we can think of the work carried out by the Ephpheta Paul VI institute for hearing and speech impaired Palestinian children: it is a very real sign of God's goodness. It is a clear sign that society is healthier.

To us, the men and women of the twenty-first century, God today also says: "This will be a sign for you", look to the child...

The Child of Bethlehem is frail, like all newborn children. He cannot speak and yet he is the Word made flesh who came to transform the hearts and lives of all men and women. This Child, like every other child, is vulnerable; he needs to be accepted and protected. Today too, children need to be welcomed and defended, from the moment of their conception.

Sadly, in this world, with all its highly developed technology, great numbers of children continue to live in inhuman situations, on the fringes of society, in the peripheries of great cities and in the countryside. All too many children continue to be exploited, maltreated, enslaved, prey to violence and illicit trafficking. Still too many children live in exile, as refugees, at times lost at sea, particularly in the waters of the Mediterranean. Today, in acknowledging this, we feel shame before God, before God who became a child.

And we have to ask ourselves: Who are we, as we stand before the Child Jesus? Who are we, standing as we stand before today's children? Are we like Mary and Joseph, who welcomed Jesus and care for him with the love of a father and a mother? Or are we like Herod, who wanted to eliminate him? Are we like the shepherds, who went in haste to kneel before him in worship and offer him their humble gifts? Or are we indifferent? Are we perhaps people who use fine and pious words, yet

exploit pictures of poor children in order to make money? Are we ready to be there for children, to "waste time" with them? Are we ready to listen to them, to care for them, to pray for them and with them? Or do we ignore them because we are too caught up in our own affairs?

"This will be a sign for us: you will find a child...". Perhaps that little boy or girl is crying. He is crying because he is hungry, because she is cold, because he or she wants to be picked up and held in our arms... Today too, children are crying, they are crying a lot, and their crying challenges us. In a world which daily discards tons of food and medicine there are children, hungry and suffering from easily curable diseases, who cry out in vain. In an age which insists on the protection of minors, there is a flourishing trade in weapons which end up in the hands of child-soldiers, there is a ready market for goods produced by the slave labour of small children. Their cry is stifled: the cry of these children is stifled! They must fight, they must work, they cannot cry! But their mothers cry for them, as modern-day Rachels: they weep for their children, and they refuse to be consoled (cf. Mt 2:18).

"This will be a sign for you": you will find a child. The Child Jesus, born in Bethlehem, every child who is born and grows up in every part of our world, is a diagnostic sign indicating the state of health of our families, our communities, our nation. Such a frank and honest diagnosis can lead us to a new kind of lifestyle where our relationships are no longer marked by conflict, oppression and consumerism, but fraternity, forgiveness and reconciliation, solidarity and love.

Mary, Mother of Jesus,
you who accepted,
teach us how to accept;
you who adored,
teach us how to adore;
you who followed,
teach us how to follow.
Amen.



Prayer for the World Meeting of Families 2015

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us
your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Image of Divine Mercy

Fr Andrzej Gowkielewicz MIC
Part 1

If we want to understand the Divine Mercy we can start by looking at the Image of the Merciful Jesus. In this picture we can find "the heart" or essence of the Divine Mercy in a most profound way, beyond words.

We know this image very well. We can find it in many churches all over the world. We have it in our houses, and work places. We keep it in our wallets as we keep the photos of our loved ones. But do we understand this image?

St Faustina wrote in her Diary on February 22, 1931 :

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me, Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. (Diary, 47)

I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. (Diary, 48)

Jesus Himself requested that this image should be painted. It was painted according to the pattern St Faustina saw. It was not her imagination or her idea of Jesus. It was how He appeared to her with all the elements we can see. Jesus wanted to be pictured this way. We have a lot of images of Jesus painted by different artists. There is a desire within us to see the face of Jesus and it is not just human curiosity but the expression of an inner longing, something much deeper.

One of the Apostles, Phillip, once asked Jesus:

Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied. Jesus said to him: Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:8-9).

This is crucial in beginning to understand the image of the Divine Mercy. In this image we see "the face" of our God. God who is our merciful Father, who loves us so much that He sent His only Son that everyone who believes in Him has eternal life. When we look at the image of Divine Mercy we can see in it what God has done for us in His Son Jesus Christ. When we look at Jesus we see how precious we are in the eyes of the Father.

Several times Jesus asked St Faustina to paint the image. She struggled to fulfil this request for many years. She was unable to paint it herself, having no knowledge of painting techniques. Other sisters in her convent were unable to help her for the same reason. When she turned to Fr Michael Sopocko, her confessor, he found a painter, Eugene Kazimierowski. In June 1934 the picture was finished. It was painted under the supervision of St Faustina. However, she was not happy with it. She complained:

When I was visiting the artist who was painting the image, and saw that it was not as beautiful as Jesus is, I felt very sad about it, but I hid this deep in my heart. When we had left the artist's house, Mother Superior [Irene] stayed in town to attend to some matters while I returned home alone. I went immediately to the chapel and wept a good deal. I said to the Lord, "Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?" Then I heard these words: Not in the beauty of the colour, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace. (Diary, 313)

Jesus gave His own authorisation or copyright to this image. It is not from the image we can see with our eyes but rather from the graces that our hearts receive that the true beauty springs.

This is the first step to understand this image. We need to look at it with our heart.

I would like to invite you to meditate quietly with this image. It is a kind of prayer – to look at the image, to stay with Jesus in this image, to read it, to listen to what Jesus may have to say to you through this image. Everyday we are different, and everyday Jesus waits to speak with us through this image.



Jesus, I Trust in You

O Eternal Love, You command Your Sacred Image to be painted
And reveal to us the inconceivable fount of mercy,
You bless whoever approaches Your rays,
And a soul all black will turn into snow.

O sweet Jesus, it is here You established the throne of Your mercy
To bring joy and hope to sinful man.
From Your open Heart, as from a pure fount,
Flows comfort to a repentant heart and soul.

May praise and glory for this Image
Never cease to stream from man's soul.
May praise of God's mercy pour from every heart,
Now, and at every hour, and forever and ever.

(Diary, 1)

Image of the
Divine Mercy
by Eugene
Kazimierowski

Divine Mercy...

*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.*

(Diary, 1588)

When we read these words that Jesus spoke to St Faustina we see the great love of God towards us, his children. Jesus sees our suffering and pain. He wants to heal us not to punish us. How wonderful is the way he wants to do this... pressing us to his merciful heart.

These words of Jesus are now particularly addressed to our families. He knows the suffering and pain of our families.

We need to start with trust. When we turn to Jesus with trust we profess our faith in Him – that He is risen, He destroyed our death, we can forgive because we are forgiven, we can love because we are loved. We trust in Him that He has power to restore what is broken, to heal what is wounded and to bring to life what is already dead in our family.

If we bring the message of Divine Mercy given to us through St Faustina to our family in some way, it may become a great help and renewal of our family.

Image – merciful Jesus among us

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.

(Diary, 48)

I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory.

(Diary, 49)

Jesus invites our families to venerate this image in our homes. To venerate means to look at an image not only with our eyes but with our hearts, to believe

that Jesus comes to us, to our families to reveal to us the love of God. The image of the merciful Jesus in the midst of the daily life of our family encourages us to trust in him, especially in the difficult and dark moments which our family goes through. When we see His love we can pray together in our families – Jesus, we trust in you.

Prayer – The Divine Mercy Chaplet

You can pray together as a family and for your family to the merciful Jesus. One of the prayers Jesus asked St Faustina to pray is the Divine Mercy chaplet. He gave her this prayer with the promise:

My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet.

(Diary, 1541)

This powerful prayer may be practised in our family as a daily prayer or as a novena prayer especially before important decisions or during difficult situations.

Jesus asked that the Divine Mercy chaplet be prayed particularly for the dying and deceased. As we remember our deceased parents, relatives and friends, we also pass on our faith in eternal life to our children. We teach them to pray for us after we have died.

The Hour of Mercy

Jesus said to St Faustina:

I remind you, My daughter, that as often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world-mercy triumphed over justice.

(Diary, 1572)

in the family.

Fr Andrzej Gowkielewicz MIC

We can practise the hour of mercy as a family. We can try to join in prayer wherever we are – at work, at school, at home. It could be the moment when although in different places but we are united in our hearts in prayer at 3 o'clock. This moment of prayer helps us to be one with each other.



Celebrating mercy

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open.
(Diary, 699)

Divine Mercy Sunday is the first Sunday after Easter. Jesus gave us this Feast of Mercy as a great gift. When we experience His mercy we are called to be merciful towards others. This Feast is a great occasion to show mercy to members of our family or even ask for their mercy. On that day of grace we can approach someone we could not forgive for many years and forgive them; or we can ask for someone to forgive us. We can celebrate this Feast of Mercy as our family Feast. On that day we are called to share what we receive.

Jesus gives our family the wonderful gift of the Divine Mercy. But He also entrusts to our family this great mission – to tell the whole world about His great mercy.

FAMILY PRAYERS TO THE DIVINE MERCY

(based on the Diary of St Faustina and devotion to the Divine Mercy)

Prayer for the capacity to be merciful towards others in our family

We want to be completely transformed into Your Mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through our hearts and souls to our neighbour.

Help us, O Lord, that our eyes may be merciful, so that we may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in our neighbours' soul and come to their rescue.

Help us, O Lord, that our ears may be merciful, so that we may give heed to our neighbours' needs and not be indifferent to their pain or distress.

Help us, O Lord, that our tongue may be merciful, so that we never speak negatively of our neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help us, O Lord, that our hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that we may do only good to our neighbours and take upon ourselves the more difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help us, that our feet may be merciful, so that we may hurry to assist our neighbour, overcoming our own fatigue and weariness. Our true rest is in the service of our neighbour.

Help us, O Lord, that our heart may be merciful so that we ourselves may feel all the sufferings of our neighbour. We will refuse our hearts to no one; we will be sincere even with those who, we know, will abuse our kindness. As we turn and confide in the most merciful Heart of Jesus.

Help us to bear our own suffering in silence. May Your Mercy, O Lord, rest upon us. (Diary, 163)

Family Prayers

continued

Prayer for love for those who hurt us

O Lord, help me to be like a tiny violet hidden in the grass, which does not hurt the foot that treads on it, but diffuses its fragrance and, forgetting itself completely, tries to please the person who has crushed it underfoot. I know that this is very difficult for human nature, but God's grace comes to my aid.

(Diary, 255)

ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE FAMILY TO THE DIVINE MERCY

O Jesus, you showed us your infinite compassion and love when you poured out every last drop of blood and water from your body.

From this day forward, with full confidence, we entrust our family to your Divine Mercy.

We place into your hands our past, our present and our future.

We place into your wounds all of our wounds which are caused by our lack of love, understanding and trust.

Heal our wounds.

Jesus, expel Satan and all evil from our family, free us from the harm caused by our sins and defend us in the future.

May our family learn to venerate your Divine Image that we may never perish but experience your loving mercy.

Amen.

Our Lady Untier of Knots

For the Family



Whether you are married or single; whether you were born and brought up in a loving family, or brought up in the most acute of circumstances; Our Lady Untier of Knots is there to console, to help, to encourage, us and all our families

Our Lady Who Unties Knots

Why for the Family?



*Maria Knotenlöserin by Johann Schmidtner c.1700.
St Peter am Perlach, Augsburg, Bavaria, Germany.*

This devotion is quite interesting as it is not the story of a Marian apparition, but springs from the everyday life of a family and bears witness to the great effectiveness of prayer addressed to Mary.

In 1612, Wolfgang Langenmantel and Sophia Imhoff married, but after only three years their marriage was in such a terrible state that it seemed divorce was to be the only conclusion. However, Wolfgang attempted one last solution. He had heard of Fr Jakob Rem, who lived in the nearby monastery of Ingolstadt, a priest well known for his discernment. Wolfgang went to visit him, 40 miles by foot, to beg for help.

Wolfgang visited Fr Jakob four times, every Saturday for a month, to pray with Fr Jakob to Our Lady for healing and reconciliation. On one occasion Wolfgang brought the couple's 'wedding ribbon.'

Following local custom, the couple's hands had been bound together with a ribbon during their Nuptial Mass as a sign and symbol of the indissoluble bond created between them in the sacrament. However this had been profoundly misused - after every argument with her husband Sophia had tied a knot in the ribbon. Taking this tangle of knotted ribbon Fr Jakob knelt in front of a painting of Our Lady of the Snows and prayed intensely to the Virgin Mary to untie each and every knot that prevented peace between the spouses: "With this act of devotion, I raise to you the ribbon of marriage; untie all of the knots and make it smooth." As Fr Jakob prayed, the knots of the ribbon miraculously fell loose, leaving it as brilliant and white as it had been on Wolfgang and Sophia's wedding day. This was taken as confirmation that their prayers were heard. Consequently the divorce was averted; Wolfgang and Sophia remained happily married.

In 1700, to commemorate the turn of the century Wolfgang's grandson, Fr Hieronymus Lagenmantel, Canon of St Peter am Perlach installed a family altar and commissioned Johann Schmidtner to decorate the chapel with the painting we see here. In the lower portion of the painting, Wolfgang Langenmantel is shown guided by the Archangel St. Raphael in his journey to resolve the crisis in his marriage.

Devotion to Maria Knotenloserin, Mary, Untier of Knots, has become widespread and efficacious particularly in the resolution of marital and family conflicts.

Pope Francis has a special devotion to this image and is responsible for bringing it to Argentina and other parts of South America where it is highly regarded. Because of this we are seeing more and more about Our Lady under this title and understanding her intercession in struggles of family life and marriage. It is a beautiful image. Since it is an image that may be new to many, this would be a great year to spend some time focusing on learning more about it and introducing your family to the devotion.



Novena

Begin with the sign of the cross

make an act of contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life.

Amen

Pray the first three decades of the rosary.

Day 1

Dearest Holy Mother, Most Holy Mary, you untie the knots that suffocate your children. Extend your merciful hands to me. I entrust to You today this knot *[mention your request here]* and all the negative consequences that it provokes in my life. I give you this knot that torments me and makes me unhappy and so impedes me from uniting myself to You and Your Son Jesus, my Saviour. I run to You, Mary, Untier of Knots, because I trust you and I know that you never despise a sinning child who comes to ask you for help. I believe that you can untie this knot because Jesus grants you everything. I believe that you want to untie this knot because you are my Mother. I believe that You will do this because you love me with eternal love. Thank you, Dear Mother.

Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Pray the last two decades of the rosary.

Pray to Mary Untier of Knots:

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need, Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exists in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exist in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain, and how I am bound by these knots. Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the untieing of the knots in the lives of his children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the Evil One himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be untied. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot. *[Mention your request here]*

I beg you to untie it for the glory of God, once for all. You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution, and, with Christ, the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge!

Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

End with the sign of the cross



Day 2

Mary, Beloved Mother, channel of all grace, I return to You today my heart, recognising that I am a sinner in need of your help. Many times I lose the graces you grant me because of my sins of egoism, pride, rancour and my lack of generosity and humility. I turn to You today, Mary, Untier of knots, for You to ask your Son Jesus to grant me a pure, divested, humble and trusting heart. I will live today practicing these virtues and offering you this as a sign of my love for You. I entrust into Your hands this knot *[mention your request here]* which keeps me from reflecting the glory of God.

Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 3

Mediating Mother, Queen of heaven, in whose hands the treasures of the King are found, turn your merciful eyes upon me today. I entrust into your holy hands this knot in my life *[mention your request here]* and all the rancour and resentment it has caused in me. I ask Your forgiveness, God the Father, for my sin. Help me now to forgive all the persons who consciously or unconsciously provoked this knot. Give me, also, the grace to forgive myself for having provoked this knot. Only in this way can You untie it. Before You, dearest Mother, and in the name of Your Son Jesus, my Saviour, who has suffered so many offenses, having been granted forgiveness, I now forgive these persons *[mention their names here]* and myself, forever. Thank you, Mary, Untier of Knots for untieing the knot of rancour in my heart and the knot which I now present to you. Amen.

Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 4

Dearest Holy Mother, you are generous with all who seek you, have mercy on me. I entrust into your hands this knot which robs the peace of my heart, paralyses my soul and keeps me from going to my Lord and serving Him with my life. Untie this knot in my love *[mention your request here]*, O Mother, and ask Jesus to heal my paralytic faith, which gets downhearted with the stones on the road. Along with you, dearest Mother, may I see these stones as friends. Not murmuring against them anymore but giving endless thanks for them, may I smile trustingly in your power. Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 5

Mother, Untier of Knots, generous and compassionate, I come to You today to once again entrust this knot *[mention your request here]* in my life to you and to ask the divine wisdom to untie, under the light of the Holy Spirit, this snarl of problems. No one ever saw you angry; to the contrary, your words were so charged with sweetness that the Holy Spirit was manifested on your lips. Take away from me the bitterness, anger, and hatred which this knot has caused me. Give me, O dearest Mother, some of the sweetness and wisdom that is all silently reflected in your heart. And just as you were present at Pentecost, ask Jesus to send me a new presence of the Holy Spirit at this moment in my life. Holy Spirit, come upon me!
Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 6

Queen of Mercy, I entrust to you this knot in my life *[mention your request here]* and I ask you to give me a heart that is patient until you untie it. Teach me to persevere in the living word of Jesus, in the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Confession; stay with me and prepare my heart to celebrate with the angels the grace that will be granted to me. Amen! Alleluia!
Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 7

Mother Most Pure, I come to You today to beg you to untie this knot in my life *[mention your request here]* and free me from the snares of evil. God has granted you great power over all the demons. I renounce all of them today, every connection I have had with them, and I proclaim Jesus as my one and only Lord and Saviour. Mary, Untier of Knots, crush the Evil One's head and destroy the traps he has set for me by this knot. Thank you, dearest Mother. Most Precious Blood of Jesus, free me!
Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 8

Virgin Mother of God, overflowing with mercy, have mercy on your child and untie this knot *[mention your request here]* in my life. I need your visit to my life, like you visited Elizabeth. Bring me Jesus, bring me the Holy Spirit. Teach me to practice the virtues of courage, joyfulness, humility, and faith, and, like Elizabeth, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Make me joyfully rest on your bosom, Mary. I consecrate you as my mother, queen, and friend. I give you my heart and everything I have—my home and family, my material and spiritual goods. I am yours forever. Put your heart in me so that I can do everything Jesus tells me.
Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

Day 9

Most Holy Mary, our Advocate, Untier of Knots, I come today to thank you for untieing this knot in my life. *[Mention your request here]*
You know very well the suffering it has caused me. Thank you for coming, Mother, to dry the tears in my eyes; you receive me in your arms and make it possible for me to receive once again the divine grace. Mary, Untier of Knots, dearest Mother, I thank you for untieing the knots in my life. Wrap me in your mantle of love, keep me under your protection, enlighten me with your peace! Amen.
Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for me.

St Faustina Kowalska (1905 - 1938)

St Faustina and her Family

From the Diary of St Faustina - Divine Mercy in my Soul



[February] 15, 1935.

When I learned that my mother was seriously ill and near death, and that she had asked that I come home, as she wanted to see me once more before dying, a host of emotions were awakened in my heart. As a child who sincerely loves its mother, I wanted very much to fulfil her wish. But I left this to God and resigned myself

completely to His will. Paying no heed to the ache in my heart, I followed God's will... On the morning of my name day, February fifteen, Mother Superior gave me a second letter from my family and granted me permission to go to my parents' home to fulfil the wish and request of my dying mother... (Diary, 395)

What a joy it was for my parents and for the whole family! It is difficult to describe it. My mother's health had improved a bit, but the doctor gave no hope of complete recovery. After greeting each other, we knelt down to thank God for the grace of being able to be together once again in this life. (Diary, 397)

Oh, how everything had changed beyond recognition during those ten years! The garden had been so small, and now I could not recognize it. My brothers and sisters had still been children, and now they were all grown up. I was surprised that I did not find them as they had been when we parted. Stanley accompanied me to church every day. I felt that he was very pleasing to God. (Diary, 399)

The days at home passed in much company, as everybody wanted to see me and talk with me. Often I could count as many as twenty-five people there. They listened with great interest to my accounts of the lives of the saints. It seemed to me that our house was truly the house of God, as each evening we talked about nothing but God. When, tired from these talks and yearning for solitude and silence, I quietly slipped out into the garden in the evening so

I could converse with God alone, even in this I was unsuccessful; immediately my brothers and sisters came and took me into the house and, once again, I had to talk, with all those eyes fixed on me. But I struck on one way of getting some respite; I asked my brothers to sing for me, inasmuch as they had lovely voices; and besides, one played the violin and another, the mandolin. And during this time I was able to devote myself to interior prayer without shunning their company. (Diary, 401)

As I was taking leave of my parents and asking for their blessing, I felt the power of the grace of God being poured out upon my soul. My father, my mother and my godmother blessed me with tears in their eyes, wished me the greatest faithfulness to God's graces, and begged me never to forget how many graces God had granted me in calling me to the religious life. They asked me to pray for them. Although everyone was crying, I did not shed a single tear; I tried to be brave and comforted them as best I could, reminding them of heaven where there would be no more parting. Stanley walked me to the car. I told him how much God loves pure souls and assured him God was satisfied with him. When I was telling him about the goodness of God and of how He thinks of us, he burst out crying like a little child, and I was not surprised, for this was a pure soul and, as such, more capable of recognizing God. (Diary, 402)

Once I was in the car, I let my heart have its way, and I, too, cried like a baby, for joy that God was granting our family so many graces, and I became steeped in a prayer of thanksgiving.

By evening I was already in Warsaw. Firstly, I greeted the Lord of the house [Jesus in the Eucharist], and then I went to greet the whole community. (Diary, 403)

When I entered the chapel to say goodnight to the Lord before retiring, and apologised for having talked so little to Him when I was at home, I heard a voice within my soul, **I am very pleased that you had not been talking with Me, but were making My goodness known to souls and rousing them to love Me.** (Diary, 404)

Mission and spirituality of St Faustina [26]

An Attitude of Mercy

Sister M Nazaria Dłubak ZMBM

Orędzie Miłosierdzia 46, 2003

An attitude of mercy – running in parallel with trust – is a fundamental element in the spirituality of St Faustina. Trust indicates the way we approach God whereas mercy describes our relations with other people.

In our everyday language we use many similar and synonymous words to describe the concept of mercy. They include: gentleness, delicacy, goodness, pity, mildness, grace, brotherly love, compassion, kindness. The word *mercy* springs from the Latin word *misericordia*. *Misericordia* joins together two significant expressions: *miser* – a poor man in need of help or compassion, and *cor* – the heart, the symbol of feelings, love and goodness.

According to St Thomas Aquinas, the word *mercy* means that in our hearts we have a love full of pity for the unfortunate stranger (cf. STh II-II q. 30, a. 1). He describes mercy as the sorrow and compassion we feel for someone who is experiencing misfortune. This compassion prompts us to provide help and to meet the needs which are causing suffering to our neighbour.

Mercy, as was stated by John Paul II in his encyclical *Dives in misericordia*, is a force which unites, supports and restores:

Mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. (DM 6)

The novelty in this perception of Christian mercy, as described by the Pope, is that an essential element in the attitude of mercy is an equalisation between the one who practises mercy and the one who receives it. According to the Holy Father, the one who does good is also the one who receives good. Mercy becomes authentic when, as we practise it, we have a deep feeling that we are also receiving it from those who receive it from us. If this mutuality is lacking, then our actions are not yet true acts of mercy (cf. DM 14).

An attitude of mercy is a fundamental feature in the spirituality of St Faustina. Jesus summoned her to

practise mercy in His teaching, reminding her of the fundamental Christian duty expressed in the Sermon on the Mount: Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy (Mt 5:7).

In his conversations with St Faustina, He presented Himself as the model of mercy:

Be always merciful as I am merciful. (Diary 1695)

He not only advised and recommended this but He also demanded acts of mercy from His Secretary:

I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. (Diary 742)

No circumstance or reason could absolve her from this duty:

You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. (Diary 742)

The mercy practised by St Sister Faustina can be described as a life-long attitude towards other people, made up of several moral attributes. Among them, a major role is played by love which inclined St Faustina to love God in her neighbour and to love her neighbour in God. St Faustina's attitude of mercy is expressed in her empathy with other people, in their spiritual and material needs, to the point where she identified with these people in their suffering:

I suffer great pain at the sight of the sufferings of others. All these sufferings are reflected in my heart. I carry their torments in my heart so that it even wears me out physically. I would like all pains to fall upon me so as to bring relief to my neighbour. (Diary 1039)

St Faustina's mercy is also expressed in her readiness to provide practical help to those who need it. She expressed it in her respect for human dignity, in an unconditional acceptance which has the power to lift people up even from the deepest pit of moral wretchedness.

In Sister Faustina's writings, we need to stress the connection she makes between Christian mercy and

Be always merciful as I am merciful.

(Diary, 742)

Divine mercy. Divine mercy is the source of human mercy. God is the source of all goodness. Being Mercy, He makes man capable of being merciful in likeness to Him. Divine mercy is also a model for human mercy. St Faustina states:

I am learning how to be good from Jesus, from Him who is goodness itself, so that I may be called a daughter of the heavenly Father. (Diary 669)



She longed to be transformed into Divine mercy; to be its living reflection. In her own actions, she wanted to mirror the merciful attitude of Jesus towards other people:

Whatever Jesus did, He did well... His manner was full of goodness and mercy. His steps were guided by compassion. Towards His enemies He showed goodness, kindness and understanding, and to those in need help and consolation. I have resolved to mirror faithfully these traits of Jesus in myself, even if they cost me much. (Diary 1175)

A person will only be merciful if he has recognised and tasted in his own life the mercy of God. St Faustina's attitude of mercy was closely linked to her

experience of the truth about God's mercy and her experience of it in her own life.

According to St Faustina, to practice mercy is to participate in Divine Mercy because God's mercy spreads throughout the world through merciful people. This is why St Faustina is aware that through her own good deeds, practiced out of love for Jesus, she participates in spreading Divine Mercy throughout the world. This, too, was why with each good deed she wanted to bear witness to Divine Mercy, making it real and thus bringing it closer to others. If the mercy shown to other people is to be part of God's mercy, it must be practiced in the spirit of Christ. It must, therefore, be shown to others out of love for Jesus and in His spirit.

St Faustina knew that of herself, she was incapable of being merciful always and everywhere and so she experienced mercy as an extraordinary gift of God's grace. For this reason, she prayed fervently for the graces she needed. She prayed to God asking that her eyes, hands, feet, ears, tongue and above all, heart, might be merciful.

Mercy as practised by St Faustina was, therefore, an attitude that embraced her whole life, her relations with others and permeated every contact she had with her neighbour. She expressed mercy in the empathy she had for her neighbour, even identifying with them in their suffering and in her readiness to come to their help through her actions, words and prayers. Mercy relates not just to the corporal but also the spiritual dimensions of a person's life which is why the desire to save souls through suffering and self-sacrifice is the ultimate expression of mercy, the perfect model of which is Christ.

Christian mercy in the writings of St Faustina reveals itself to be an extraordinary virtue because of its bond with the mercy of God Himself. Good human actions, words and thoughts have their source and model in God, who is Mercy, and also participate in His mercy. This is the fascinating mystery of Christian life which St Faustina lived each day.

From the writings of Bl Stanislaus Papczynski (1631 - 1701)

Mystical Temple of God

Chapter 12

The Singers of the Mystical Temple



In man the emotions take the place of music, since not clamour, but love sounds in the ear of God. He who well tempers the emotions, praises God best with a harmonious symphony. Here we give a sort of practice of this matter to be used again and again, selected from the Royal Harpist himself. See, how beautifully all the emotions tend towards the one God, albeit by different paths, I should have said tones!

[The following texts are from the Vulgate translation]:

Love: "I shall love you, Lord, my strength: the Lord is my firmament, my refuge, and my deliverer" (Ps 18:2-3).

Sorrow: "To you only have I sinned, and have done evil before you: that you may be justified in your words, and may overcome when you are judged." (Ps 51:6).

Joy: "We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we shall be exalted." (Ps 20:6).

Sadness: "My soul is troubled exceedingly: but you, O LORD, how long...? Turn to me, O LORD, and deliver my soul; o save me for your mercy's sake." (Ps 6:4-5).

Hope: "In you, O Lord, have I hoped, let me never be confounded; deliver me in your justice. Bow down your ear to me; make haste to deliver me!" (Ps 31:2-3).

Fear: "Pierce my flesh with your fear; for I am afraid of your judgements" (Ps 119:120).

Desire: "Lord, all my desire is before you; and my groaning is not hidden from you." (Ps 38:10).

Resignation: "Make the way known to me, where I should walk: for I have lifted up my soul to you. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD. To you have I fled. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your good spirit shall lead me into the right land. For your name's sake, O LORD, you will quicken in me your justice." (Ps 143:8-11).

Gratitude: "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be always in my mouth" (Ps 33:2).

To this are inclined the sighs:

Of the Afflicted: "The troubles of my heart are multiplied: deliver me from my necessities" (Ps 25:17).

Of the Penitent: "I said, I will confess against myself my injustice to the LORD; and you have forgiven the wickedness of my sin" (Ps 32:5).

Of the Tempted: "O God come to my assistance: O Lord, make haste to help me." (Ps 70:2).

Of the Slandered: "Let them be confounded and come to nothing that detract my soul: let them be covered with confusion and shame that seek my hurt" (Ps 71:13).

Of the Assailed: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the protector of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 27:1).

Of the Confused: "Enlighten my eyes that I never sleep in death; lest at any time my enemy say: I have prevailed against him" (Ps 13:4-5).

More examples of this kind can be drawn, both from the Psalms of David and diverse uttered prayers of various Saints. Indeed necessity and God teach us such things. Therefore the devout soul should just be watchful lest she expel the God of infinite goodness from itself by some grave sin, and should not be particularly concerned about similar expressions of emotions: his Musicians follow the King everywhere.

But if anything is to be attributed to the ancient masters of however good Philosophy, and their admonitions are not entirely to be rejected, then I shall be allowed to declare with Tullius Cicero: "Nothing is more sweet than the harmony of the virtues."

This harmony pleases Almighty God who wants us to be perfect as He Himself is. O God!

Make us to understand the way of your justifications, and we shall be exercised in your wondrous works.
(Ps 118:27).

Graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski

A family united again

Thanks to the intercession of Bld Stanislaus, two of my sons who had not spoken to each other in years are now once again brothers. Also, I have a son in prison who none of my other children would have anything to do with. I prayed to Bld Stanislaus for the grace of forgiveness for my children, and now we are once again a family, united after all these years.

MF

Her prognosis is excellent

I promised Bld Stanislaus I would send this to you. A good friend of mine was told she had stage three breast cancer, and the long-term outlook was not good. I prayed to Bld Stanislaus.

Then, when the doctors operated on her they found that the cancer was localised. All the surrounding tissue was cancer-free. She will not need chemotherapy, only radiation as a precaution.

Her prognosis is excellent! Thank you, Bld Stanislaus, for answering my prayers.

NM

Successful pregnancy and delivery

After having three miscarriages, I became pregnant a fourth time. During this pregnancy I found out about Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, and we prayed to him every day. Thankfully, I delivered a healthy baby. Thank you so much for spreading the word about Fr. Stanislaus and his intercession.

STR

The power of prayer

I am a working mother of three beautiful girls who are 11, 9 and 4. My husband is a firefighter, so adding shift work to an already busy life is a challenge.

As a requirement for my work I have to learn another language. Yet my boss was not supportive of my language training or flexible with my family situation. I prayed to Bld Stanislaus for guidance, strength and an answer to my situation.

Soon after a colleague came to me and asked how

things were going. I filled her in on what was going on in the office and at home. She suggested that we pray together. That very day things started to change.

The previous week I had asked in another section if any positions were available. There were none. The day my colleague and I prayed together I received an email telling me things had changed in the department. They asked for my CV. I sent it and the very next day I had a job offer.

I took the offer and continued the language training. More importantly I continue to pray with my former colleague. It's a wonderful way to start the day and I am certainly aware of the impact that the prayer has had on my life. There were times when I was weak and tired and doubted whether my prayers were being heard. I no longer have that doubt.

JM

PRAYER THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF BLESSED STANISLAUS PAPCZYNSKI



God, our Father,
Who in Your unfathomable Providence gave us
in Blessed Stanislaus a successful intercessor
before Your throne,
grant me (us) through his intercession the
grace..., for which I (we) beg You;
also grant that in accord with his example
I (we) may faithfully fulfil Your most holy will.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KNOCK

2nd Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady, Knock, Ireland



Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland, all my cares and troubles cease as I kneel with love before you, Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace...

These beautiful words continued to resound in my heart for many weeks after our pilgrimage to Knock. During this pilgrimage we could experience that special grace of Knock which attracts so many people to come and visit. Many times I asked myself - what is it that brings us here? And I received a very simple answer. So, let's start from the beginning.

Why do we like to make a pilgrimage, to go to a holy place like Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes, Knock or others? Is it not enough to go for holidays to Spain or Italy and when we are rested to go and visit some churches or shrines? But we know that it is not the same. When we go for holidays everything is prepared, ready and waiting for us – accommodation hotels, meals, attractions, trips. We can just relax and rest. When we go on a pilgrimage although we have booked the hotel, meals etc we have done so not just to have a nice time but for another reason.

The pilgrimage starts when we leave our home. From that moment we are not tourists or simple travelers but pilgrims. We left our security, our comfortable bed, our favourite food etc. and put our life in the hands of God, trusting that He will lead us by the best ways. When things are not going according our plans we can start to complain and be discouraged, or we can be thankful for everything that God has prepared for us.



This became an experience of a part of our group which was traveling from Slough and Ealing to Gatwick Airport – the place of our departure. As we waited in the airport they were completely stuck on the M25 just a few miles away. Time was passing but the traffic was not. In a situation of total lack of control simple traffic can teach us that our life is not in our hands. In that situation you can start complaining or panicking but you cannot change it. Or you can start praying – “Jesus, I trust in you, I trust that my life, that this present situation is in your hands, thy will be done...”

Although they missed our flight all of them arrived safely to the Shrine of Knock a few hours later. The next day when I talked to some of them I was very impressed how determined these pilgrims were to visit our Lady. If this had happened when you were going on your holidays you might give up much more easily but these were pilgrims not tourists.



14 - 18
November
2014



Every shrine has a specific message. What is the message of Knock? During our stay in the Shrine we tried to listen to this message though it was an unspoken one. On 21 August 1879 Our Lady appeared with St Joseph, St John and the Lamb on the altar. No word was spoken but a message was given, a message of peace and comfort, a message of love and mercy. In the midst of suffering and pain, persecution and famine, Our Lady came to her people to show them the Lamb of God, the victorious One who is merciful with us, takes away our sins and brings us peace. When the apparition finished in one sense the life of people of Knock was the same – the same houses, fields, problems... but now it was completely changed because God had come with His Mother to encourage them. They could see their lives in a different dimension, as they experienced the presence of God and Our Lady. They could see that



life has a deeper meaning; that they are loved by God. And so a shrine rose up as the people shared this experience, of God visiting his people.



I am sure that everyone who comes to Knock with an open heart, with a true desire to meet God will be blessed at this place. Our pilgrims can confirm this. I saw on their faces true joy and happiness. One evening we listened to testimonies from our group; how the pilgrimage had touched their hearts. It was wonderful to hear these words, praising the Lord for graces granted and received. Someone experienced healing for their marriage through the intercession of Our Lady of Knock. Another was healed physically. But I am convinced that all of us were touched by the love of God.

We were sad to leave the Shrine, our hearts wanted to stay! But we knew we needed to return to our ordinary lives to share the message of Knock with others. With the words Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland, all my cares and troubles cease as I kneel with love before you, Lady of Knock, my Queen of Peace...



From the Apostolate...

You are warmly invited to the Monthly prayer groups and events organised by the Divine Mercy Apostolate, Marian Fathers

THE HOUR OF MERCY

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2.30 pm Rosary
3.00 pm Hour of Mercy
3.30 pm Holy Mass
4.30 pm Tea and coffee

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London W5 5PD

2 minute walk from Ealing
Broadway station

MARIAN DAY OF PRAYER TO THE DIVINE MERCY



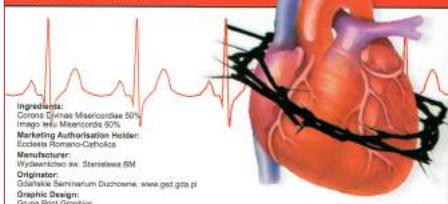
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Divine Mercy Pilgrimages

2015 *All Welcome!*



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11 April

Aylesford

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady

6 June

Walsingham

National Divine Mercy Pilgrimage

31 August

Aylesford

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady

Divine Mercy Word Search No. 7

Find the words below, horizontal, vertical, diagonal and backwards

Love	Penitent
Sorrow	Tempted
Joy	Slandered
Sadness	Assailed
Hope	Confused
Fear	Untier of Knots
Desire	Marriage
Resignation	Holy Family
Gratitude	Paint
Afflicted	Image

A	V	R	E	B	G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	W	H
G	S	P	C	E	G	A	I	R	R	A	M	O	I	F	S
U	I	T	S	H	D	E	S	U	F	N	O	C	V	T	E
D	E	H	O	L	Y	F	A	M	I	L	Y	A	B	W	U
E	T	P	J	N	X	Q	B	D	R	A	S	F	A	P	H
L	E	B	V	A	K	Y	C	E	G	W	I	F	R	F	X
I	K	T	F	C	Z	F	W	S	Y	D	J	L	O	D	G
A	O	D	E	R	B	T	O	I	E	R	O	I	Q	E	C
S	S	E	N	D	A	S	R	R	S	V	D	C	G	R	W
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I	T	W	D	S	N	O	I	T	A	N	G	I	S	E	R

Marriage challenges?

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?

Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?

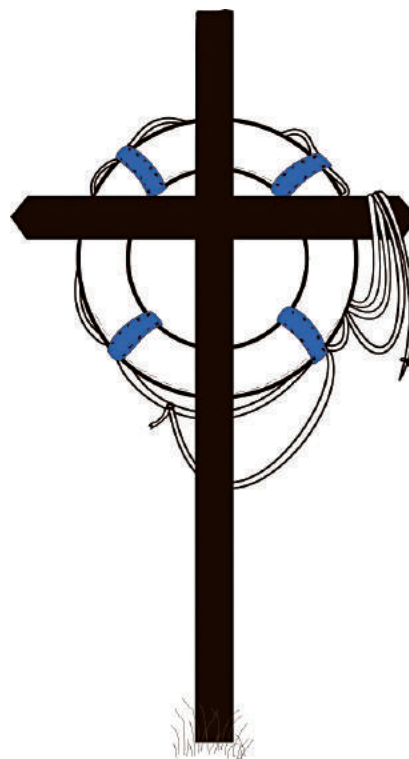
Are you constantly fighting?

Or, do you simply shut down?

Have you thought or talked about separation?

Does talking about it only make it worse?

Are you losing hope for your marriage?



Retrouvaille can help!

Pope Benedict XVI to Retrouvaille - 2008

'As I reflect on your activity, once again I have recognized the "finger" of God, that is the action of the Holy Spirit which inspires in the Church answers to the needs and emergencies of each time. Certainly in our days a much felt emergency is the one concerning separations and divorce. Providence inspired the intuition of the Canadian couple Guy and Jeannine Beland, to help couples in crisis through a specific programme which aims at rebuilding their relationship not as an alternative to the psychological therapies but through a separate and specific itinerary.'

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