

## The Image of the Divine Mercy

The earliest element of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina was the Image. On February 22nd, 1931 Jesus appeared to her with rays radiating from His heart and said,

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 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)

I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this Image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You." The two rays denote Blood and Water. the pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwells in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush, lies the greatness of this Image, but in My grace. (Diary 313)

By means of this Image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works. ( In these texts the Church's doctrine on Images, justification and grace are explained. First, by itself an Image is merely a painting, no matter how beautiful and expressive. Yet, it can point us to the mysteries of the faith and dispose us to grasp and receive what it represents, in this case the Divine Mercy. It is thus a vessel, not the source, a reminder, not the reality. The reality is the merciful fountain of grace flowing from the pierced Heart of Christ on the Cross, and flowing out visibly to represent the visible, that is the sacramental, sign of grace, Baptism and Eucharist, standing for all the sacraments of the Church. Thus, St. John in his first letter insists on the presence of the invisible with the visible, the Spirit with the water and the Blood.

The Image also reminds us that salvation is not just by faith, but by works of charity also. It takes faith to see and believe in what the Image signifies, Divine Mercy poured out from Christ upon the Cross, but it takes mercy, love going beyond the strict requirements of justice, in order to draw down mercy on oneself. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" (Mt 6:12) and, "the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you" (Mt 7:2) The Image of the pierced side of Christ pouring out blood and water reminds us that the Cross, love in action, is the price of mercy. "As I have loved you so also should you love one another." (Jn 13:34)

**Mon. 04/28** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**  
 Feast Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, priest  
 8:00 AM Mass Bill Stitt, Ann, Wife Mim and Family

**Tues. 04/29** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**  
 Feast Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church  
 8:00 AM Mass Frances Kasun, 4/28 Ann, Husband John and Family

**Wed. 04/30** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**  
 Feast Saint Pius V, Pope  
 8:00 AM Mass Edward Cheslock, Sr., Stanley Krish and Family

**Thur. 05/01** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**  
 Feast Saint Joseph the Worker And Saint Peregrine  
 8:00 AM Mass Father James D. Zatalava, B/day, Staff

**Fri. 05/02** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**  
 Feast Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
 8:00 AM Mass Michael F. Zaczek, B/day, Sister Carol

**Sat. 05/03** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**  
 Feast Third Sunday of Easter  
 4:30 PM Mass Neil Cassarly, C. Smith

**Sun. 05/04** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**  
 Feast Third Sunday of Easter  
 9:00 AM Mass David C. Riley, Tom and Ricki Lantz  
 11:00 AM Mass Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

*Lord  
 Jesus  
 Christ  
 Son  
 Of  
 God  
 Have  
 Mercy  
 On  
 Me  
 A  
 Sinner*

**Happy Birthday:**

04/22 Alexander Clark\*  
 Ken Smithmyer\*

04/25 Denise Sttit\*

04/26 Christine Manna\*

04/27 Terri Summers\*

\*April \*Birthdays & W. Ann missed due to early Bulletin publications

05/01 Shirley Siedlarczyk  
 Father James Zatalava

05/03 Bob Simanski, David Stein

05/04 Sherry Byrne, Amanda Clark,  
 Tom Riggelman, Eileen Starr

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

04/23 Frank and Janice Frucella\*  
 04/27 Tim and Linda Burr\*  
 05/04 Stanley and Rital Sral

**Nocturnal Adoration, Friday, May 3rd**  
**St. Joseph's Church,**  
**623 E 3rd St., Bellwood**  
**8-11 PM**

**Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray the Holy Rosary**  
**Daily**  
**At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately from**  
**8:30am to 7:00pm**

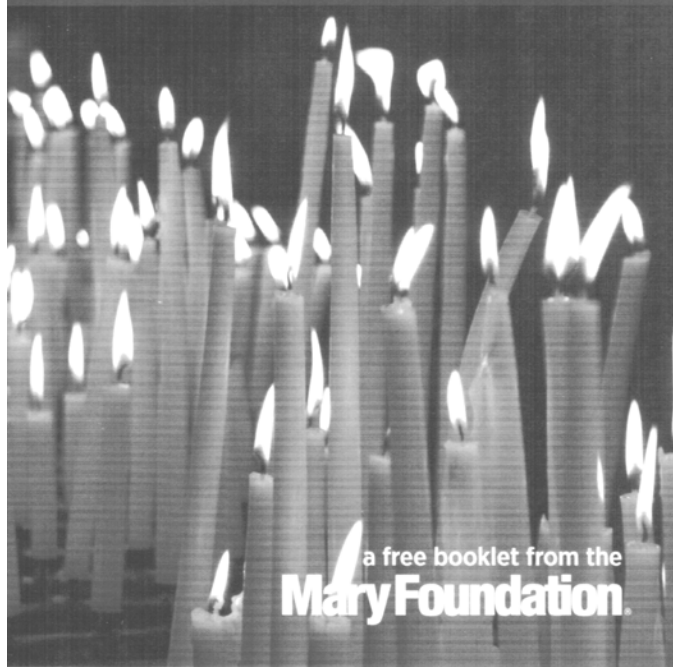
**MONEY MATTERS**

(Palm Sunday, April 6, 2014), Offertory \$ 2,684.17, Collection One Year Ago = \$2,224.08  
 (Holy Thursday, April 17, 2014), Offertory \$ 347.00, " " " " = \$ 396.00  
 (Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014), Offertory \$ 3,255.00, " " " " = \$4,568.00

Tot. Holy Week Decorations = \$ 960.00      Holy Land Collection = \$79.00  
 ACA 2014 Pledges to date = \$6,260.00      # of Givers = 37

# Powerful Prayers

**Every Catholic Should Know**



a free booklet from the  
**Mary Foundation**