

LESSON 49: DIVINE MERCY

Instruction for Faith Educators

For Basic Level / Age 9	:	Cover points 1 to 9
For Intermediate Level / Age 12	:	Cover points 1 to 9
For Advanced Level / Age 15	:	Cover points 1 to 9

Revision from previous lesson:

In the previous lesson, we learned about one of the most important and popular devotional prayers of the Church, that is, the Rosary. But the Rosary is not the only devotional prayer we have. One other devotional prayer that is becoming increasingly popular is the Divine Mercy Chaplet. In this lesson, we will learn about the devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Current lesson:

1. On 5 October 1938, a young religious by the name Sister Faustina (Helen Kowalska) died in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland. She came from a very poor family that had struggled hard on their little farm during the terrible years of World War I. Sister had had only three years of very simple education. Hers were the humblest of tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or the vegetable garden, or as a porter.
2. On 22 February 1931, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ appeared to this simple nun, bringing with Him a wonderful message of Mercy for all mankind. Sister Faustina tells us in her diary under this date:

“In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, ‘paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.’”

(Show a picture of the Divine Mercy painting to the students.)

3. Sometime later, Our Lord again spoke to her:

“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 depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross...Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.”
4. As a further sign of His forgiving love, Jesus called for a Feast of the Divine Mercy to be celebrated in the whole Church. He said to Sister Faustina:



“I want this image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, the depths of My Mercy will be open to all. Whoever will go to confession and Holy Communion on that day will receive complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. Mankind will not enjoy peace until it returns to My Mercy.”

5. In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy. Sister tells us:

“I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord’s wounds. And I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus.”

6. Of another vision on 13 September 1935, she writes:

“I saw an Angel, the executor of God’s wrath... about to strike the earth... I began to beg God earnestly for the world with words which I heard interiorly. As I prayed in this way, I saw the Angel’s helplessness, and he could not carry out the just punishment...”

7. The following day an inner voice taught her to say this prayer on ordinary rosary beads:

“First say one Our Father, Hail Mary, and I believe. Then on the large beads say the following words: ‘Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world’.”

“On the smaller beads you are to say the following words: ‘For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world’.”

“In conclusion you are to say these words three times: ‘Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world’.”

8. Jesus said later to Sister Faustina:

“Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy...”

“...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Saviour.”

9. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the students. You may use a video if deemed beneficial.

HOW TO PRAY THE



Chaplet of Divine Mercy

• FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SORROWFUL PASSION, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD.

APOSTLES CREED
HAIL MARY
OUR FATHER



Start

ETERNAL FATHER, I OFFER YOU THE BODY AND BLOOD, SOUL AND DIVINITY OF YOUR DEARLY BELOVED SON, OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, IN ATONEMENT FOR OUR SINS AND THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

Finally



HOLY GOD, HOLY MIGHTY ONE, HOLY IMMORTAL ONE, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD. (REPEAT 3 TIMES)



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