

Divine Mercy Sunday Bulletin Reflection

By: [Billy McDermott](#)

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You often hear Fr. O'Hara tell us to pray a very simple prayer: "Jesus, I Trust in You!" To the left of the Pieta (the beautiful statue of Mary holding her crucified Son, Jesus) in the back of our Church, you will notice a picture of Jesus with rays of blue and red (water and blood) coming out of His heart with the inscription written on the bottom: "Jesus, I Trust in You!"

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. John Paul the Great instituted this Feast Day on April 30, 2000. On that same day he elevated the first Saint of the New Millennium, Helen Kowalska. We know her as St. Faustina. She was a Polish nun who lived just thirty-four years (8/25/05 – 10/5/38). She had two winters of education - about six months.

Jesus began speaking to her in 1931. Why? Fr. Benedict Groeschel thinks the answer is simple. "She listened." Jesus appointed her His Secretary. Imagine being appointed "Secretary to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?"

If you think Pope Benedict XVI can draw large crowds, tune your TV today to EWTN at 3:00 P.M. and witness the crowds at her National Shrine in Stockbridge, MA.

Jesus Christ ordered her to write a diary during the last four years of her life. In some places, she had written scripture word for word, this - from a woman with a limited education and access to a Bible. Her Superiors were dumbfounded when they read it. Legend holds there were long lines at the confessional after her death because she was often the butt of cruel jokes and snide remarks. This diary is available and widely read. It is believed to have sold millions of copies already.

Jesus dictated (*passage 49 & 88*) to her that He wanted the first Sunday after Easter to be "Divine Mercy Sunday. He also dictated (*passage 47*) how He wanted the image (mentioned above) of Himself painted. He also dictated (*passage 475*) to her a prayer that we know as "*Chaplet of the Divine Mercy*," a prayer we will recite today at 3:00 PM in our Church. Jesus asks us to recite this prayer at 3:00 PM, the hour of His death, when He grants His mercy (*passage 1320*) to one and all. At this hour, it is impossible for Him to refuse anyone. All you have to do is ask.

The genius of God! With twenty-four time zones, there is always a 3:00 somewhere in the world.

Our Patron Saint, St. Therese and Saint Faustina are good friends. St Faustina (*passage 150*) speaks of how she prayed to her always. I believe they are both in cahoots for the

greater good of mankind. It is clear that they both have Jesus wrapped around their finger and Jesus couldn't be more pleased. They all love each other so much!

This day has special meaning for me and can for you as well. I returned to the Catholic faith two years ago. It was on Divine Mercy Sunday – (although I didn't know it at the time). I was reading Bishop Patrick Ahern's book on St Therese (the day after Easter) that convinced me all that I was looking for was right here in the Catholic Church. I went to communion. Within a few days a very strong voice was speaking in my heart that I needed to go to confession. I had just moved into this neighborhood. So I called the rectory, not realizing that St Teresa's is really the namesake for St. Therese and was one of the first North American Parishes named after her. It would be the first time I ever spoke to Fr. O'Hara. He welcomed me home and assured me all would be okay. Jesus reflected that in (*passage 1784*) and Fr O'Hara's sounded like he had just experienced his greatest joy (childlike giddiness may be a better description). I hadn't been to confession in more than thirty-five years. I would receive a new heart and spirit (*Psalms 51:12*). Jesus told (*passage 699*) St. Faustina that if anyone receives Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday and goes to Confession (even soon thereafter) their souls will be as pure as on the day of their Baptism.

My life has never been the same.