

Divine Mercy Sunday Homily

St. Faustina was no ordinary religious. She wanted to be ordinary and blend in with her order. She wanted to be known by others as simply Sister Maria Faustina; a humble woman from Poland who believed strongly that her true calling in life would be fulfilled by being a religious. She wanted to spend her life in quietude and prayer.

God had other plans for her. In particular, Jesus had an incredible plan for her. She listened well to the Holy Spirit and pursued the vocation of religious life. It wasn't easy for her and she had to overcome many obstacles; not the least of which was getting accepted by an order despite her frail health. She had to apply to different religious orders multiple times before being accepted.

Once she had her foot in the door of the convent there was no doubt in her mind that she was in the right place. She was obedient to her superiors even when she interiorly questioned some of their motives for moving her from the first convent she was assigned. Every difficulty she encountered early on in her vocation was divine providence. Sister Faustina was being prepared by Jesus for what was to come.

Despite her own doubts at first that Jesus was really speaking to her, she sought wise spiritual counsel, and found it in a trustworthy spiritual director and a priest confessor who encouraged her to listen to Jesus and follow his directions. Any doubts she had that it was really Jesus who was speaking to her ended when she began being tormented by Satan. Jesus used Sister Faustina's spiritual director and confessor to assist her in her struggles against Satan and also began to protect her from spiritual and emotional harassment.

Jesus wanted Sister Faustina to tell the world about his divine mercy that he was about to open to those who believed this message. He appeared to her one day and rays of light in multiple colors emanated from his heart. Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to share this image with the world along with the message: "Jesus, I trust in you."

She found an artist who was able to replicate the image after several attempts and corrections by Sister Faustina.

St. Pope John Paul II was a champion of Sister Faustina's cause for sainthood. He faced opposition but pursued her cause despite some who claimed he was only doing this because Sister Faustina was a citizen of his native Poland.

Today the image of Divine Mercy is present in many places around the world. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was dictated by Jesus to St. Faustina. It is a wonderful prayer. "The Diary of St. Faustina" encapsulates her life.

In order to fulfill Jesus's instruction to St. Faustina that the Sunday following Easter Sunday be dedicated to his divine mercy, St. Pope John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday and beatified St. Faustina on April 18, 1993. May we seek Jesus's divine mercy for all souls. St. Faustina, pray for us.