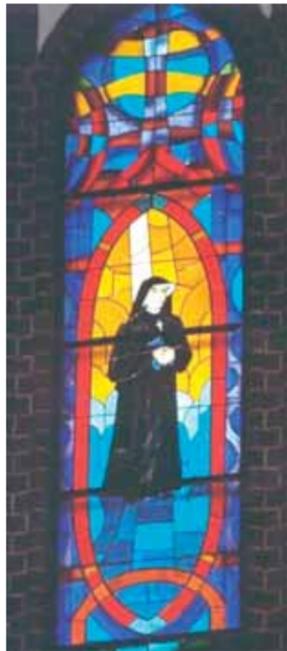


Sacred Heart of Jesus and ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

POLAND, 20TH CENTURY

The most recent practical link to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the devotional icon of the Lord's Merciful love came from the Polish nun Saint Faustina Kowalska. Jesus appeared to her on February 22, 1931, with His right hand bestowing blessings and His left hand pointing towards His Sacred Heart, which emitted two rays: one pale; the other a bright red. These rays represent the Water and Blood that came out of Jesus' pierced side while on the Cross. This symbolizes the purifying virtues of Baptism and Confession and the regenerative virtue of the Holy Eucharist.



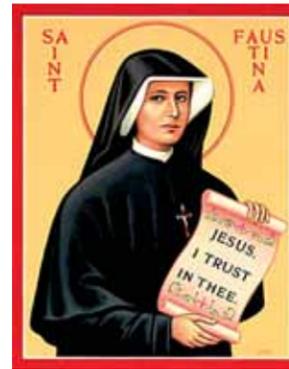
Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Cracow



Jesus to St Faustina: "My daughter, write these words as I tell you: All the souls of the world who adore my Mercy and diffuse this adoration will bring other souls into the fold. Those who trust my Mercy will not fear when the hour of death comes. My Mercy will protect them in their last battle... My daughter, incite souls to recite this Rosary chaplet that I gave you. When this Holy Rosary is recited, I will concede to them everything they ask for."



Saint Faustina said: "During Holy Mass when Jesus was exposed through the Holy Sacrament before Holy Communion, she saw two rays of light coming out of the Holy Host; one very pale and the other a bright red light, just as depicted in this image."



In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II decreed that on the first Sunday after Easter, the Liturgical Feast of Divine Mercy is to be celebrated

Jesus to St. Faustina: "My daughter, help me to save a sinner in agony; recite the Rosary that I taught you for sinners". Sr. Faustina: "When I started to recite the Rosary, I saw a soul on his death bed suffering terrible torture and pain in fighting the last battle of life. The soul was being defended by his guardian angel, who was, however, helpless... A great multitude of demons were waiting for the soul, but while I was reciting the Rosary chaplet, I saw Jesus in the same aspect as depicted in the painting. The bright rays coming out of the Heart of Jesus surrounded the sick soul and the forces of evil ran away... The sick person died serenely. When I regained my consciousness, I realized that the divine chaplet Rosary was an important prayer to be recited around the dying. This placates God's wrath." (St. Faustina Kowalska, *Diary*, Vatican Library Edition, p. 515)



DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET ROSARY

Jesus to St. Faustina: "This prayer serves to placate my wrath. Recite for 9 days with any Rosary beads in the following manner:

First recite the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed.

Then on the Our Father bead, 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 Hail Mary bead recite the following words:

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Finally, recite these words three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Let's report the words of Jesus to St. Faustina: "I desire that this image be venerated by the entire world. I promise that the souls of those who attribute veneration to this image will not perish. I even promise victory over their enemies, already here on earth, but especially at the hour of death. I will defend that soul in the name of glory." Jesus, Himself explained the significance of this devotion: "My daughter, tell all that I am love and mercy personified. The wound in my Heart signifies the unlimited living waters of Mercy. Tell all the souls that I protect them with my shield of Mercy; it is for them that I fight, bearing the just umbrage of my Father [...] My daughter! Tell suffering humanity to secure itself to the Mercy of my Heart and I will fill them with peace [...] Souls are perishing, regardless of my sorrowful Passion. I concede to them the last table

of salvation, meaning my merciful feast [...] this icon is a sign of the end days, after such, the day of judgment is upon you."

After showing His Infinite Mercy, the Lord also showed St. Faustina "hell". "Today, under the guide of an angel, I went into the abyss of hell. It is a place of extreme torments in the entire, huge, terrifying surroundings. These are the various tortures and torments that I have seen: **First** torture: This consists of hell as being the loss of the Presence of God; **Second**: the continuous remorseful conscience; **Third**: the knowledge that such a destiny will never change; **Fourth**: This torture is a pain that penetrates the soul, but does not nullify it; it is a terrible torture and it is a purely spiritual, living fire lit only by God's wrath. **Fifth**: This is the torture of eternal

darkness, a horrible suffocating, putrid odor; even if it is dark, the demons and the condemned souls can see each other among themselves and see all the evil that others have done as well as their own evil. **Sixth**: This torture is the knowledge of having Satan as a constant companion. **Seventh and last**: This torture is the incomparable desperation of God's wrath, in blasphemy, cursing and swearing. The sinner should realize the same ways that he sins is the way he is going to suffer for all eternity. I am writing this by the Lord's direction, so that no one can say that there is no hell, or that no one has ever been there or that no one knows how it is. I, Sister Faustina, under the Lord's direction, have been in the abyss of hell, for the simple reason of being able to tell everyone and to witness that hell does exist. What I have written is only a weak shadow of what I have actually seen."