

Sermon

◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 2:42-47*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Peter 1:3-9*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 20: 19-31*

FROM WHERE DID THIS “DIVINE MERCY” ORIGINATE??.....From the diary of a young polish nun, sister Faustina Kowalska, concerning revelations, that she received about God’s mercy, a special devotion began that spread throughout the world in the 1930’s. The Divine Mercy message is nothing new, that God is merciful and forgiving, and that we also must show mercy and forgiveness. The feast was granted to the Universal Church by pope st.John Paul II at the canonisation of Sr. Faustina on 30th April 2000.

Perhaps at this stage of the Pandemic the whole world is crying out for mercy, “Lord, be merciful to all of us everywhere as we lose our loved ones, our jobs, and the securities we thought would get us thru’ everything....” ; I wonder what it will be like when workers return to their place of work only to be met by a blatant sign “SORRY, DUE TO THE RECENT VIRUS, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY” ; Did you ever wonder about people who have no Faith and now have to deal with the many consequences of the Pandemic issues?? “oh!, so does that mean that God will favour those who have the gift of Faith, and give them first preference, as opposed to those who do not have the gift of Faith??” of course not! Here’s a piece of Holy Scripture to meditate on, you’ll find it in St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapter 2: 10 – 11 “...renown, honour and peace will come to everyone who does good, Jews first, but Greeks as well. GOD HAS NO FAVOURITES!....”. let us remember, God Holy Spirit has many ways of reaching the hearts of all, including those who lay no claim to any faith. The spirit can see into the heart, mind and soul of every human being and no-one is excluded from the Plan of Salvation ; also the ways of God are not our ways, “for God nothing is impossible”....

But as regards the rest of us who have been granted the Gift of faith, we are now, in the present circumstances, challenged to pray fervently, persevere and to place all our Hope in Jesus the Saviour ; this present Pandemic is a real test to our Faith. we will not get thru' a very uncertain future without the help and guidance of Jesus ; how this Pandemic started will eventually be answered by scientific researchers, but HOW to get by and live thru' it are more urgent issues.

As believers we have to continue to pray, persevere and not to become discouraged ; do you get consolation from Holy Scripture, i.e., the Word of God?? here's another few lines we can take to heart, it's from the 2nd reading this Sunday from the 1st Letter of St. Peter, the apostle refers to the power of Faith in the midst of trying circumstances ; he says "through your Faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials ; so that when Jesus Christ is revealed, your Faith will have been tested and proved like GOLD"!!!!.....

And so with these few lines, I'd encourage you not to lose heart in these trying circumstances, surely the Lord-of-Life is fully aware of our present global situation, and is already working on a "plan-of-action" to see us thru' it all..

Thus says the Lord "DON'T LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, TRUST IN GOD STILL, AND TRUST IN ME", Gospel of st.John, chapter 14 :1

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