



## About St. Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska was born in Poland. When she was twenty years old, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 1931, she had a vision of Jesus while she was in Plock, Poland. Jesus appeared to her and said, “paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature: JESUS I TRUST IN YOU. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory” (Diary 47, 48).

He asked her to remind the world of His unfathomable Divine Mercy and He taught her a very special devotion to the Divine Mercy based on trust in Him.

Sister Faustina died on October 5, 1938, at a convent in Krakow. She was buried in the convent chapel beneath the image of the Divine Mercy.

Sister Faustina was beatified on April 18, 1993; her canonization took place on April 30, 2000, the first Sunday after Easter, on Divine Mercy Sunday.

She was honored by becoming the first saint of this millennium, thus giving great emphasis to the Divine Mercy Devotion.

As one of the great events of the Jubilee 2000, Pope John Paul II conducted the ceremony of the canonization of St. Faustina before a crowd of around 200,000 Divine Mercy Pilgrims.

We are encouraged to study and to practice the devotions of the Divine Mercy:

- Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image with the caption, “Jesus, I trust in You.”
- Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, especially at 3:00 – the Hour of Divine Mercy.
- Praying a Novena of Divine Mercy from Good Friday to the Sunday after Easter, which has been designated the Feast of the Divine Mercy.

Jesus said, “On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.” (From Sr. Faustina’s Diary, p. 699.)

## About the Divine Mercy Chaplet



The Divine Mercy Chaplet is based on the spirituality of Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938). It is associated with a holy image and the motto, “Jesus, I trust in you”. The feast day of Divine Mercy is the Sunday after Easter.

The key revelation to Saint Faustina was that God’s mercy is infinite and unfailing. The Divine Mercy message asks the faithful to implore God’s mercy for the entire world, to be merciful and forgiving towards others, and to trust in God completely.

At the time of Faustina’s death in 1938, the Divine Mercy message was little known outside Poland. During the Second World War, 1939-1945, the chaplet gained popularity in both Poland and Lithuania. It also reached the United States. Father Joseph Jarzebowski, a member of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, introduced the Divine Mercy devotion to the United States in 1941.