

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners:

This Sunday is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. In February 1931, a young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, was granted a vision of Jesus Christ with rays streaming from His heart. Our Lord told her that the rays represented His mercy for all peoples and told her to have an image painted to represent this vision with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You!" During subsequent visions Jesus taught Sr. Faustina that His mercy is unlimited and available to all who ask for it. The devotion to the Divine Mercy is intended to assist people in seeking the Lord's mercy. He also revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy. By the time of Sr. Faustina's death in 1938 devotion to the Divine Mercy had already spread throughout Eastern Europe. In April, 2000, Pope John Paul declared the canonization of Sr. Faustina as a saint and announced that the Sunday which follows Easter Sunday will now be celebrated as **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

The **message** of mercy can be called to mind by remembering A-B-C. **A**sk for the Lord's mercy through prayer. **B**e merciful to others. **C**ompletely trust in Jesus for that is the only way we can receive all the graces the Lord wishes to give us. Our Lord told St. Faustina that the **Sacraments** of Penance and the Holy Eucharist are special fountains of mercy which should be received frequently. Our Lord also instructed St. Faustina to promote the Corporal and Spiritual **Works** of Mercy because we must be willing to give to others the mercy we ask for from Him. The **image** of Divine Mercy shows Jesus Christ our Merciful Savior. The red and white rays represent the love and mercy which flow from His Heart.

The **Chaplet** of Mercy is a special prayer that accompanies the devotion. Using the Rosary, it is said in the following manner. First one prays one Our Father, one Hail Mary and the Apostles Creed. Then, on the single bead before each decade one prays: "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 ten beads of each decade one prays: "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." The chaplet concludes with the prayer: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Our lives would be much more peace-filled if we commit ourselves to seeking and sharing the Lord's mercy and repeat often throughout the day the simple prayer:

**“Jesus,  
I Trust in You!”**

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley