

## Words of inspiration and comfort from the scriptures and the saints

### **St. Pope John Paul II's message to women from his eleventh encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*:**

*"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life".*

### **St. Maria Faustina Kowalska from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska***

*Jesus speaking to St. Maria Faustina:*

*"My daughter, know that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy, graces flow out upon the whole world. No soul that has approached me has ever gone away unconsolated. All misery gets buried in the depths of My mercy, and every saving and sanctifying grace flows from this fountain...*

*...Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul.*

### **The words of St. Claude de la Colombiere, SJ**

*Lord, I am in this world to show Your mercy to others.*

*Other people will glorify You*

*By making visible the power of Your grace*

*By their fidelity and constancy to You.*

*For my part I will glorify You*

*By making known how good you are to sinners,*

*That Your mercy is boundless*

*And that no sinner no matter how great his offences*

*Should have reason to despair of pardon.*

*If I have grievously offended You, My Redeemer,*

*Let me not offend You even more*

*By thinking that You are not kind enough to pardon me. AMEN.*

***The words of Jesus in the parable of the Lost Sheep.***

*The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep." I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.*

**–Luke 15:1-7**

***The words of Jesus about the woman caught in adultery.***

*The Woman Caught in Adultery*

*Then each went to his own house, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"*

*They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more."*

**-John 8:1-11**