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My dear parishioners:

Last Sunday the Catholic Church celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday. Because I wanted to write to you last week some words of gratitude to all who helped to make our Holy Week and Easter liturgies so beautiful, I was not able to write to you about the significance of Divine Mercy Sunday. I would like to do so this week.

The Octave (Second) Sunday of Easter was designated as Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope John Paul II in 2000 at the canonization of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (+1938), a Polish nun who received spiritual messages from the Lord and who received from the Lord a mental image of Christ in his divine mercy. A copy of this image hangs on the back wall of the church between the sacristy and confessional. A wonderful book to read on the Divine Mercy is DIARY of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul (Marian Press).

In the messages St. Faustina received from the Lord, the most powerfully striking and consistent theme was that Christ wants to shower the world with his divine mercy. This is certainly not a new revelation for the scriptures and lives of the saints are filled with examples of this desire of God, but in the spiritual writings of St. Faustina we read a powerful and beautiful call of the Lord for all of humanity to embrace the mercy and love of God.

The richness of God's mercy finds its scriptural origin in the Old Testament. There are two Hebrew words that are usually translated as *mercy*. The first is the word *hesed*, which is translated as "steadfast love, covenant love". The person with this type of love is a person you can count on to always be with you and never let you down. In the Old Testament, this is the kind of love that God has established with his people Israel. God made a covenant of love with them and, even when they strayed, God remained faithful to his steadfast love. So infinitely strong was God's covenant of love with his people that the Prophet Isaiah wrote: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love (*hesed*) shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you." (Is. 54:10)

The second Hebrew word for mercy is *rachamim*, which is translated as a tender, compassionate love, a love that flows from pity. The person with *rachamim* is one who recognizes the misery of others and desires to help ease their suffering. God consistently demonstrated this love for his people, most notably by bringing the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land.

The New Testament provides us the fulfillment of God's mercy in the new and everlasting covenant, which is Jesus Christ. The Lord is the incarnation of God's mercy for in Jesus God demonstrates his divine love by offering humanity redemption through the forgiveness of our sins. The Greek word for mercy is *eleos* (literally pouring out oil). Mercy is the pouring out of God's loving kindness. In the penitential rite at Mass we pray "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord have mercy), which is asking God to pour out his mercy upon his sinful people. In Latin the word for mercy is *miser cordia* literally, "a compassionate (or miserable) heart". One person's heart is suffering due to the suffering of another person. Here the image of the Sacred Heart of Christ surrounded by a crown of thorns comes quickly to our minds.

In his encyclical letter on mercy, *Dives in Misericordia*, Pope John Paul II stated, "The bible, Tradition, and the whole faith life of the People of God provide unique proof...that mercy is the greatest of the attributes and perfection of God.(no.13)" How beautiful and reassuring to know that it is the mercy of God that motivates the totality of God, including His wisdom and justice. Everything about God is oriented towards his divine and most merciful love. →

May 5, 2019 - May 12, 2019
Readings and Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 5 Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14 <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>	9:00am—Mass First Communion <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>
Monday, May 6 Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29	4:30pm—Mass
Tuesday, May 7 Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/ Jn 6:30-35 <i>Mass intention for Ladies of the Altar Society</i>	11:30 am—First Tuesday Mass 4:30pm—Mass
Wednesday, May 8 Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40 <i>Mass intention for P.T. Leger</i>	8:30am—Mass
Thursday, May 9 Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51	9:30am—Communion Service
Friday, May 10 Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59	4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Saturday, May 11 Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69 <i>Mass intention for Henson Crenshaw</i>	9:00am—Mass
Sunday, May 12 Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30 <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>	

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
 (Ps 30)

PRAYER REQUESTS


Please pray for: Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson, Sam Brocato; Wayne Cook, David Day, Debbie Cook, Mary Guerrio, Elaine Smith, Jeanette Bourque, Iva Craft, River Craig, Kevin LaLonde, Bill Leathem, Mark Newitt, Jessie Day, Joshua Durham, Donnie Mayville; Larry Reed, Joe Boykin, Brenda Eddings Lane

Repose of the soul: James Craft, Jr., Eugene Kinkelarr

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

As we continue this Season of Easter the Church invites us to humbly recall the depth of God's merciful love for us. It is in the death and resurrection of Christ that we experience the fullness of God's mercy. It is in the sacraments of the Church that we receive, and in the Eucharist literally taste, the divine mercy of God. The appropriate response for us is twofold: to express our thanks to God for his divine mercy through our prayer and by our being merciful towards one another. To be the people of "divine mercy" thus requires us to be fervent in our prayer and constant in our care. Let us be renewed in our resolve to express our love of God through our love of one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. May 5 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am—Mass First Communion <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. May 6 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. May 7 10:00am—Senior Social 11:30pm—1st Tuesday Mass 12:00am—Lunch 1:00pm—Altar Society 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. May 8 10:00am—Stewardship 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE 7:00pm—Eucharist Adoration/Confessions	Thurs. May 9 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. May 10 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. May 11 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions Bake Sale 4:30pm—Mass Blessing of Mothers 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. May 12 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am—Mass Blessing of Mothers Bake Sale <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. May 13 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. May 14 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. May 15 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. May 16 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. May 17 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. May 18 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass



We Come to Your Table

Lane Baker
 Alainjade Bouton
 Dagen Bouton
 Kynli Foxworth
 Eloy Morin
 Rosemary Patc
 Nieoli Pippin
 Christopher Rosas
 Mare Sanchez

Questions for Family Discussions

Adults: In what ways are you answering Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep?"

Children: What do you do to take care of others as Jesus asked Peter to do?

Weekly Stewardship

April 27 & 28 Weekly Offering	\$ 2,869.48
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ -282.52

Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com and click on **Donation**.

A Catholic Charismatic Renewal
 Friday, **May 10th**, 7-9 pm
 St. Mary Catholic Hall, 912 W. Cherry Orange, TX.

Lay Evangelist, Kerry Bueche from Houma Louisiana will give teachings and guidance on "Growth in the Spirit".

Kerry Bueche will also be available for Healing Prayer following his talk.

Ted Nelson will provide music for Praise and Worship.

Refreshments and fellowship will follow.
All are invited, so please bring family and friends.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on **Sunday, May 12, 2019**. Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Upcoming Events

May 10: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, St. Mary, Orange, TX 7-9pm
 May 12: World Day of Prayer for Vocations
 May 19: BLOOD DRIVE, Family Center 10am-1pm
 June 6: Confirmation, Our Lady of the Pines 6:30pm