

Fr. Martin's Reflection – April 7, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I truly hope you had a wonderful Easter and that the time spent with family and friends will be a source of wonderful and happy memories. As part of our journey through Easter we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy. This feast was declared by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who received messages from Jesus as well as the vision of Jesus as the source of all mercy.

The following is an excerpt from Sr. Faustina's *Diary*:

"My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness." (Diary #699)

What will it be like to contemplate the love and mercy of God for all eternity? To some, this might not at first seem that appealing. Won't it become boring if all we do for all eternity is contemplate God's mercy? If that is a question that resonates with you, then the reason this idea initially lacks appeal is because you cannot fathom how fulfilling and glorious this will be. Jesus said, "My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

This Sunday, the eighth day of the Octave of Easter, is celebrated as the Feast of Mercy. By placing this Feast on the last day of the Octave of Easter, God is telling us that the message of this Feast reveals the ultimate purpose of our lives. Easter is the culmination of the perfect plan of redemption. And Divine Mercy Sunday is the culmination of that perfect plan. Therefore, nothing is more important than trying to understand the message this Feast presents.

By analogy, if you were given a new car but never drove it, the car would be of no use. Or if you won the lottery and the money simply sat in your account unused, what's the benefit? Or if you were gravely ill and were given a medicine that would cure that illness but you never took it, then you would remain ill. So also, if we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus, but never allow the Mercy that is given by that act to transform us, then we have missed the point. The Divine Mercy is the point of life. It's the only thing worth seeking. It's the only source of satisfaction and fulfillment. It's the only cure for our ills. It's the only source of true riches. In three short words: It Is Everything!

Reflect, today, upon The Divine Mercy. As you do, humble yourself through prayer by admitting to God and to yourself that His Mercy is beyond what you will ever comprehend. Do this in prayer. Reading about God's Mercy is important, but it will only be through prayer that we begin our contemplation. And it will only be through this contemplation that we will begin to live the central purpose of our lives.

*Glorious Divine Mercy, pour down upon me; open my mind to Your depth and breadth. Help me to begin to contemplate You in Your fullness so that I can begin my eternity with You now. My loving Savior, You have revealed so much about Your Mercy. May I not only learn about this Gift but also receive it into my life.
Jesus, I trust in You.*

Holy Week and Easter Triduum

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make Holy Week and the Easter Triduum a wonderful and uplifting celebration. To all of you, a heartfelt **Thank You!**

May the Risen Christ keep you and all your loved ones forever in His loving care.

Fr. Martin