



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

April 28th, MMXIX

Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

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Month of the Holy Eucharist

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Wesołego Alleluja!

This Sunday, the last day of the Easter Octave and Second Sunday of Easter's seven, is also the Feast of Divine Mercy. This feast focuses our attention once again on the mercy of Almighty God that comes through the passion and death of His Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The foundation of the devotion is a series of appearances of the Merciful Savior to a humble Polish nun in the early 1930's.

To place the origin of this devotion in the perspective of the history of our parish, Sr. Faustina's first vision took place when Reverend Peter Kruszka had become the eighth pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, and Reverend Casimir Wiercioch was his assistant. Reverend Alexander Szumowski had become the sixth pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka and Reverend Stephen Dzienis was his assistant. Most Reverend Michael Gallagher was the bishop of Detroit. It was not yet an archdiocese! The church building we are worshipping in today was just sixteen years old. And school was conducted in the original combination church and school building built in 1899. The parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was 32 years old and the parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka was just 17 years old.

Back in Poland, the young Helena Kowalska had entered the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and received the name Mary Faustina. She was now 26 years old. On February 22nd, 1931 Jesus appeared to her in her cell in the convent. He was dressed in a white garment and held one hand raised in blessing and with the other He was touching the garment at the breast. From under the garment came two rays of light, one red, the other pale. The Lord requested Sr. Faustina to have a painting made of this image with the inscription: *Jesus I Trust in Thee!*

Along with this sacred image the Lord instructed Sr. Faustina to make known to all humanity God's great love for His creation as manifested through His Divine Mercy. Sister kept a very detailed diary of all of Jesus' words as he appeared to her over and over until she died on October 5th, 1938. From these writings, have been taken the prayers of a very powerful novena, beginning on Good Friday and ending on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. Sr. Faustina Kowalska has been canonized a saint by Saint Pope John Paul II.

Act of Consecration to the Divine Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Son of the Father, and Divine Mercy Incarnate, we consecrate our families and our parish to Your Most Sacred Heart.

We adore You in the mystery of Your conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, when You united our human nature to Your divine nature. We thank You for Your sacrifice on the Altar of the Cross for our salvation; and the continuation of this sacrifice in every Holy Mass until the end of time.

Divine Redeemer, we entrust to Your Sacred Heart the great work of Eucharistic Adoration in our chapel. Bring many souls to adore Your Real Presence.

Bestow on our parish a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a "renewal of Pentecost". Increase within us the divine gifts of faith, hope and love. Teach us to pray.

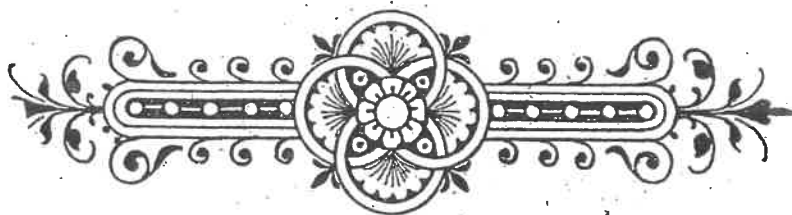
Give to each one of us a heart that seeks the fruits of the spirit. Instill in our hearts a tender love and true devotion to Mary, and to her Rosary.

Bless our parish with many priestly and religious vocations. Protect and strengthen married couples and their families through the custom of the family rosary; heal the sick; watch over the men and women who serve our country in the military; grant an end to war and peace on earth. Lord, give us a love for all human life, from its conception to its natural end. Lord, convert sinners; save the dying; and deliver the holy souls in Purgatory.

O Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, we place this consecration in the pure hands of Mary most holy and St. Joseph her most chaste spouse in order to receive Your greatest blessing and mercy.

Bring us all to heaven!

Our Lady of the Scapular,
pray for us.



THE MESSAGE OF MERCY

On February 22nd, 1931, a young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, saw a vision of Jesus with rays of mercy streaming from the area of His Heart. He told her to have an image painted to represent this vision and to sign it, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

Calling her the Apostle and Secretary of His mercy, he ordered her to begin writing a diary so others would learn to trust in Him.

In a series of revelations, He taught her that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He 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 begun to spread throughout Eastern Europe.

In July of 1940, Fr. Joseph Jarzembowski, a Polish Marian priest fleeing from war-torn Poland, prayed to the Merciful Savior to help him escape, vowing to spend his life spreading the Divine Mercy message. He arrived safely on American soil in May 1941; and Marians in Detroit, and Washington D.C. were soon distributing Mercy of God leaflets, prayer cards, and other materials.

In 1944, a group of Marians opened a new house and apostolate on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

By 1953, the apostolate had become the international center for the Divine Mercy devotion, and in 1960 the Marians on Eden Hill completed construction of a shrine to the Mercy of God.

The shrine has now become the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, and the apostolate has become the Marian Helpers Center, a modern religious publishing house spreading devotion to the Mercy of God and to Mary Immaculate.

On the Sunday after Easter, April 30th, 2000 (Mercy Sunday), Sr. Faustina was solemnly canonized in Rome by Pope John Paul II. The pope also established mercy Sunday world wide.

Our parish observance of the Feast of Divine Mercy will take place this afternoon with Eucharistic adoration beginning just after the noon Mass and concluding with benediction at 2:45 PM. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1:00 PM. A special Mass will then be offered at 3:00 PM. This will be a fine opportunity to be spiritually up-lifted and bathed in the Mercy of God!

The ABC's of Divine Mercy

The message can be called to mind simply by remembering A-B-C. *Ask for His Mercy.* God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly. *Be Merciful.* God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. *Completely trust in Jesus.* God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependant upon our trust.

The Sacred Image

The image that Our Lord asked St. Maria Faustina to have painted is a portrait of Jesus as Merciful Savior. The red and pale rays represent the blood and water that flowed from His pierced Heart as a fountain of mercy for us. The image is a reminder for us to come to Jesus with trust and to be merciful to others; and it should always carry the signature, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

Many different versions of this image have been painted, but Our Lord made it clear that the painting itself is not what is important: "**Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in my grace** (Diary, 313) So, no matter which version you prefer, you can be assured that God's grace will flow through it.

Tuesday, April 30th – Feast of St. Pope Pius V

Early in the sixteenth century, Martin Luther had raised serious concerns about wrongs within the church. Many people agreed with Luther, and the Protestant Reformation began. Gradually the leaders of the Roman Church came to realize that the concerns raised by Luther and other reformers had to be dealt with. The Council of Trent was called to design a plan for reform in the Catholic Church. In 1563 the Council ended after 18 years of work. Two years later, a former shepherd boy from the Piedmont region of Italy was elected pope. He chose the name Pius. It would be his task to put the reforms recommended by the Council into practice. St. Pius was a gifted man who came to the papacy from the Dominican Order. He was not gentle or flexible. In fact, he was stubborn, but he was known for his humility. In processions through the streets of Rome, St. Pius walked barefoot with no hat. He often fasted. He built hospitals, and he personally tended the sick. He spent many hours in prayer. St. Pius insisted that church finances be accounted for and that clergy lead simple lives. He began seminaries to train priests properly. He established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to teach the faith to young people. St. Pius died after only six years in office.

Wednesday, May 1st – Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Apparently in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955. But the relationship between St. Joseph and the cause of workers has a longer history. In a constantly necessary effort to keep Jesus from being removed from ordinary human life, the Church has from the beginning proudly emphasized that Jesus was a carpenter, obviously trained by St. Joseph in both the satisfactions and the drudgery of that vocation. Humanity is like God not only in thinking and loving, but also in creating. Whether we make a table or a cathedral, we are called to bear fruit with our hands and mind, ultimately for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Friday, May 3rd – Feast of Mary Queen of Poland and Polish Constitution Day

Many times in its history, the Polish nation has experienced the protection of the Mother of God. Her strength as its defender especially was seen at the time of the Turkish invasion. After the miraculous defense of Jasna Góra from the Swedes, King Jan Casimir on April 1st, 1656 in a solemn act placed the country under the protection of the Mother of God, making her the Queen of Poland. The feast of Mary Queen of Poland was established by Saint Pope Pius X for the Archdiocese of Lwów, and in 1924 at the request of the bishops of Poland, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to all of Poland assigning it to be observed on the memorable day of May 3rd, Polish Constitution Day. On August 3rd, 1962 the Holy Father, Pope John XIII proclaimed the most holy virgin, Mary Queen of Poland, the primary patron of the nation together with the saintly bishops and martyrs, Wojciech and Stanislaus.

May 3rd, Constitution Day is a legal holiday in Poland. It commemorates the Polish Constitution that was ratified on May 3rd, 1791, just before the final partition of Poland and the country's removal from the map of Europe. It is the first such constitution to be formed in Europe and the second in the entire world following the American Constitution. The document proclaims independence from outside forces for the Polish nation and calls for a just society where noblemen and the common man are considered equals by the state, a very radical idea in 1791!

“Remember that nothing important ever happens until someone takes a chance.”

**KTO RANO WSTAJE, TEMU PAN BÓG DAJE!
GOD GRANTS BLESSINGS TO THE ONE WHO RISES EARLY!**

Friday, May 3rd – Feast of the Finding of the True Cross

Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the year 326, when she was seventy-six years old. A Roman emperor, Hadrian, about two hundred years before, in order to stop Christians from venerating the mount of Calvary where Jesus was crucified, had raised a large mound of earth over it and dedicated a temple there to the goddess Venus. When Saint Helena arrived in Jerusalem, with the help of Saint Macarius, Bishop of that city, she had the Temple of Venus destroyed. She hired two hundred workmen and one hundred soldiers to dig into the ground, and they found the Holy Cross on which Our Lord was crucified. It was identified miraculously by the instantaneous cure of a little boy with a crippled arm and of a woman who was dying when it touched her. Part of the True Cross was put in a small church on Mount Calvary. Part of it was kept in Constantinople. And part of it was sent to Rome to the Basilica of the Holy Cross, where it is kept and venerated to this day.

Along with the finding of the True Cross, Saint Helena also found the four nails which were in Jesus' hands and in His feet when He was on the Cross, the spear which the centurion drove into the side of Jesus when He died and the inscription placed above the head of Jesus on the Cross, which proclaimed Him in Hebrew, in Greek and in Latin: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." One of the nails Saint Helena found under the hill of Calvary she later threw into the sea to stop a storm. The other three nails are kept in churches in Europe. One of them is in the Iron Crown of Lombardy. The spear that pierced Our Lord's side is kept in one of the pillars of the Vatican, in Rome. The inscription over Our Lord's sacred head is kept in the Church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, in Rome. There is a special feast dedicated to the nails and the spear that wounded Our Lord on the Cross, on the second Friday of every Lent.

Saturday, May 4th – Feast of St. Florian – Patron of Poland

This Friday is the feast of the patron saint of the Polish-American parish in Hamtramck, St. Florian. St. Florian was a Roman soldier who was born about 280 A.D. in Austria. Surrounded by the military might of Rome, he was attracted to the army and chose it for his career. He advanced rapidly to a position of trust. His loyalty, faithfulness and bravery reflected his sincere and intense dedication to the service of Jesus Christ; he was a model Christian practicing his faith to an heroic degree.

He lived during the time of persecutions under the Roman Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. While he was on furlough, news came to him that forty of his men were arrested as Christians and cruelly tortured. As their leader he could not be outdone by those serving under him. He himself was arrested and suffered cruel tortures and indignities. All this failed to shake his faith and firm resolve.

A stone was tied around his neck and he was thrown into the river Enns near Lorch in Upper Austria. The body of St. Florian was recovered and buried by a pious woman. An Augustinian monastery was built over the site of his tomb. He was buried in Sankt Florian near Austria and was later transferred to Rome. In 1183 King Casimir the Just and the Church leaders of Poland petitioned Pope Lucian III to send the relics of a Christian martyr to rest in their country. The Pope gave his permission that the relics of St. Florian be transferred to Poland. His remains were brought to Kraków in 1184. At this time, Poland was in constant danger from attacks from without by the Tartars and other barbarians and from within from many quarrels, disputes and even civil strife. These "fires" threatened the very existence of Kraków. During a great fire that threatened to destroy the city, the people prayed to St. Florian and they credited the saving of the city to his intercession. He thus became known as the Patron of Firefighters. He is also one of the Patrons of Poland as well as Upper Austria and the city of Linz.

St. Florian Parish in Hamtramck was founded in 1908. Its first pastor was Fr. Bernard Żmijewski, who was also the founding pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Wyandotte! Bishop Joseph Plagens was the second pastor of St. Florian Parish from 1912 until 1919 when he became pastor of Sweetest Heart of Mary. The church was built from 1914 to 1928 in a late English Gothic style. It was designed by the prominent architect Ralph Adams Cram and is the most prominent landmark in the city of Hamtramck.