

The Divine Mercy Saint



During the next several years, Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina many times. In one vision, Sister Faustina saw two rays of light, one red and one white, pouring forth from Jesus' heart. Jesus told Sister Faustina that the red and white rays represented the blood and water that poured forth from his heart when he was pierced with a sword as he hung on the cross. He explained that his blood is the life of souls and the water from his side makes souls righteous.

Jesus told Sister Faustina to share with the world that he is the Divine Mercy. He loves each one of us, no matter how great our sins. Jesus told Sister Faustina that he wants all people to trust in him and in his mercy.

Sister Faustina spent the rest of her life praying that people would accept the love and mercy of Jesus. At the end of her short life, she became very ill. As she lay

dying, she said, "My one occupation is to live in the presence of my heavenly Father."

Sister Faustina died in 1938. We celebrate her feast day on October 5.

We celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter.

If someone asked you to name just one characteristic of God, what would you say? If Saint Faustina Kowalska had been asked this question, she probably would have replied, "God is mercy."

Saint Faustina was born in Poland in 1905 and was baptized Helen Kowalska. She came from a family of poor farmers.

When Helen was seven years old, she heard Jesus' voice within her, encouraging her to become a saint. Later, she wanted to become a nun, but her parents needed her to help support the family. When Helen was nineteen, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She took the religious name Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.



Depending on God's Mercy

The story of Saint Faustina shows that God uses all of us, including a simple nun from a poor family, to carry out his will. The story also reminds us of the importance of mercy in our lives. Reflect on how merciful you are to other people.

Activity

Complete the paragraphs below to give examples of mercy in everyday life.

1. Janet is upset with her best friend, Amy, who said some hurtful things to her. Janet sees Amy trip on the sidewalk and drop her books. Janet decides to _____

2. Stephen sits next to Rick in math class. Rick is always asking Stephen for help. Sometimes they get in trouble with the teacher for talking. This annoys Stephen. The next time Rick asks for help, Stephen _____

3. When Carl loses a game, he gets very angry. He yells and throws things. On Saturday, Carl and his sister were playing a board game. When he lost the game, he immediately felt angry. This time, Carl _____

*Saint Faustina, help us turn to God and depend on his neverending mercy. May we be merciful to others as he is merciful to us. Pray for us whenever we find it hard to show mercy to others.
Amen.*