

+M
Jesus I trust in You!

Retreatant's Handout: Points – Day 2 – Friday, 4 Sept

For reflection: St. Faustina and her mission is a gift of God given personally to me.

Some questions to bring to prayer....

-How do I accept the gift of God given me in St. Faustina, especially through her mission as *Apostle, secretary and minister of Mercy?*

What is the message that Jesus is telling me through Faustina? *I will listen to Him speaking in my heart when I read reflect on His words that He asked Sr Faustina to record...*

How do I listen? Is there a 'but' that comes up when I read about God's tender love for my soul? "But that's just for.... But I'm like this.... But etc etc." What makes it hard for me to believe that this message is meant personally for me?

-What is my attitude to the message that God gives me through St. Faustina? What are the reactions in my heart to the message of God's merciful love? Perhaps fear, terror, feeling of helplessness when considering one's lack of courage, tiredness of it all, apathy? Do I escape and hide, maintaining an intellectual distance from this love that wants to come so close, but inside my emotions perhaps may be in a panic, wanting to believe but cannot?

I will bring all of these to Jesus.... *Jesus, help me to see, help me to hear. Jesus, see my heart and all that is in it... I will listen to what Jesus wants to say... Holy Spirit be with me. Mary, my Mother, stay close to me and help me.*

Quotes

"And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it (...)" JP II, Canonization homily for Sr Faustina

"Today I heard these words, '**Under the Old Covenant I sent prophets to My people with thunderbolts. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the whole of mankind. I do not want to punish anguished humankind, I want to heal it, pressing it close to My merciful Heart.**' (...)" Diary 1588

APOSTLE - '*one who is sent*' to fulfill a particular function or task
 Greek "apostolos" - "apo", "stello," means "from" and "to send,"

"4 June 1937. Today is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. During Mass I had knowledge of Jesus' Heart, how great is the fire of His love for us; His Heart is a sea of mercy. Then I heard this voice, **Apostle of My mercy, tell the whole world of My unfathomed mercy; do not be**

discouraged by the difficulties you encounter in proclaiming My mercy. These difficulties that are troubling you so painfully are necessary for your sanctification and to prove that this is a work of Mine. O My daughter, take great care to write down exactly every sentence I say to you about My mercy, because it is for a great number of souls who will be benefiting from it.” (Diary, 1142)

Or can also pray with these texts from Scripture - Jesus sending the disciples - remembering that Jesus is sending them personally to me. How do I receive them and their message?

Mt 10: 5-14 Commissioning of the 12

Mt. 28. 18-20 Go make disciples out of all nations

Eph 1: 1 Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God to the holy ones who are in [Ephesus] grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SECRETARY

“Write whatever comes to your mind about My goodness.” (...) “do whatever I ask of you. Your thoughts are united with My thoughts, so write whatever comes to your mind. **You are the secretary of My mercy; I have chosen you for this office in this life and in the next.** That is what I want, in spite of all the obstacles they will put in your way; know that My preference will not change.” (1605)

“Secretary of My most profound mystery, know that you are in My unique confidence; your task is to write down everything I let you know about My mercy, for the benefit of souls, who on reading these texts will receive comfort in their souls and draw courage to come up to Me. So I want you to spend all your spare time on writing.” (1693)

“(…) My daughter, **secretary of My mercy; not only is it your responsibility to write about My mercy and spread word of it, but pray for such people as well, that they too might worship My mercy.**” (1160)

Others: Diary 1275, 1784

MINISTER - in Polish, *szafarka* (feminine form of the noun, *szafarz*) (also translated as *administrator, dispenser*) - means one who dispenses or distributes. Although it is used to refer to ordained men in the church, the word operates with other meanings in settings outside the church, i.e. government, “minister of defense”, “minister of education,” etc. - a person in charge of a specific section of service for the people, usually appointed by a superior. Merriam-Webster definition of minister: a high officer of state entrusted with the management of a division of governmental activities.

Jesus is sending me His minister of mercy... how do I welcome this humble minister of mercy and the message and service she brings?

“(…) Daughter of Mine, I have inclined my Heart to your requests; your task and duty is to beg for mercy here on Earth for the whole world. No soul shall be justified until it turns

trustfully unto My mercy, and that is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy, and on that day priests are to tell souls of My great and unfathomed mercy. I am making you the minister of My mercy. Tell your confessor that the picture is to be displayed in the church, not in the cloister of this convent. Through this picture I shall dispense many graces to souls, and therefore let every soul have access to it.” (570)

[passage begins with Jesus sharing with Faustina His suffering because of chosen souls]
 “(...)Others do not trust in My goodness and never want to discover the sweet intimacy in their own heart, but look for Me somewhere far away and never find Me. That lack of trust in My goodness is what hurts Me most. If My death has not convinced you of My love, then what will convince you? Often a soul inflicts a mortal wound on Me, then none can console me. [48] They use My graces to offend Me. There are souls who despise My graces and all signs whatsoever of My love; they do not want to hear My calling and are heading straight for the pit of Hell. That loss of souls plunges Me in mortal sorrow. I can do nothing to help such a soul, even though I am God, because it despises Me; it has a free will and can either despise Me or love Me. **You, Minister of My mercy, tell the whole world of My goodness, by that you will console My Heart.”(580)**

“One day I saw crowds and crowds of people in and outside our chapel, and out in the street, as there wasn’t enough room [in the chapel] for all of them. The chapel was decorated in a special way, as for a feast day. (..) Suddenly I heard a voice telling me that I was to take the place in the altar. I was forced promptly to take up the place set aside in the altar. As soon as I had taken up that reserved place the same people, the charges, the sisters, superiors, and my parents – they all started stretching out their hands and asking for graces, and I didn’t mind they had been throwing all those different things at me; oddly enough, just because of it I felt a special love for those people, who had forced me to get into the place that was reserved as fast as I could. At that moment my soul was filled with indescribable bliss and I heard these words, **“Do whatever you wish; distribute graces as you wish, to whoever and whenever you wish.” (31)**

MESSAGE: GOD LOVES ME

[St. Faustina words in the Diary:] “(...) No-one can deny that God is infinitely merciful; He wants everyone to know that. Before He comes again as Judge He wants souls to learn that He is the King of mercy. (...)” 378

[Jesus’ words] **“And even should his sins be as black as night, whenever a sinner turns to My mercy, he gives Me supreme glory and honours My Passion. Whenever a soul praises My goodness it makes Satan tremble and run for cover in the very depths of Hell.” (378)**

St. Faustina words — “All grace whatsoever comes from mercy, and the last hour is full of mercy for us. Let no one doubt in the goodness of God; even if his sins should be as black as night, God’s mercy is stronger than our wretchedness. All the sinner needs to do is to leave the door to his heart just a little ajar for the ray of grace of Divine mercy to enter, and God will do the rest. But wretched is the soul that has closed up the door to Divine mercy, even at the last hour. Those are the souls which cast Jesus into the sorrow of death in the Garden of Olives, for it was from His most compassionate Heart that Divine mercy flowed out.” (1507)

Others quotes: age-old message of God's love, its tenderness...

God's love for me is like that of a tender mother....

From the Diary:

Diary 1541, Jesus words: **“When a soul sees and recognises the gravity of its sins, when the whole chasm of wretchedness into which it has sunk is laid bare before its eyes, let it not despair, but let it trustfully cast itself into the arms of My mercy, like a child into the arms of its beloved mother.”**

May also pray with texts from Scripture:

Mt. 23: 37 (Jesus' lament over Jerusalem) (also **Lk 13:34**)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Is. 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I [God] comfort you...

Is. 49:15 Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

Lk 13:34 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Other quotes, from the Catechism:

Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries. (CCC 66)

Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church (CCC 67)

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