

Apostles of Divine Mercy

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2014 Apostles Newsletter

Dear Fellow Apostles,

This year will be a great opportunity for evangelization!

Pope Francis has been urging us to get out of our comfort zones and get out into the streets and evangelize! This is very welcomed news to us, as we have been urging everyone to go “out” and to bring home, who Jesus called “fainting souls”, instead of staying in our comfort zones and organizing afternoon Divine Mercy devotions that only devotees attend. It’s time to go out and be true Apostles of Divine Mercy!

It is very sad that many parish efforts for Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations only consist of organizing afternoon devotions that are attended by mostly devotees. We must consider how many Easter-only or fallen-away Catholics are actually going to attend a long prayer service and then attend a Mass to receive Holy Communion. Have we forgotten that the real purpose of this Feast of Mercy is for poor sinners?

I know that this is very hard to swallow by many Divine Mercy devotees, who have placed a lot of effort, over many years, to have some type of Divine Mercy Sunday celebration in their parishes. We have been observing the celebrations in parishes and have found that many only focus on having afternoon devotions, without any effort whatsoever to go out and evangelize. What would Jesus want us to be doing?

Let Jesus be our guide!

Let’s recall Jesus’ words in St. Faustina’s diary (#699): **“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.”**

If Jesus told St. Faustina (diary entry #1397) that the loss of each soul plunges Him into mortal sadness, then why aren’t we focusing on those souls who are in danger of perishing? If we are truly Apostles of Divine Mercy, then we need to be getting really serious about helping Jesus to save sinners and to ease the Lord’s sadness. It hurts the Lord Jesus when devotees haven’t even thought about these poor sinners.

What is your parish doing?

So what is your parish going to do this year? Will they be focusing their energy on saving poor sinners? Isn't it time we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in such a way that will bring many Easter-only, luke-warm and fallen-away Catholics back to the practice of their faith? Isn't it time to think about the pain that Jesus suffers? Isn't it time to switch our parishes out of low speed? Isn't it about time to celebrate the Feast of Mercy the way that Jesus would want us to by going out and evangelizing?

Many misdirected devotees are asking priests for things that Jesus never asked us to do on His Feast of Mercy. It is much better for us to focus on the things that would help Jesus save poor sinners. We should be evangelizing! Isn't this what our Pope is calling us to do? Shouldn't our efforts be evangelistic instead of just organizing devotional parties? We need to get out of our comfort zones and on to the streets!

Jesus told Faustina what to do for the feast, and this should also be our guidelines. Jesus said *“Gather all sinners from the entire world and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. I want to give Myself to souls.... On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will “go” through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them.”* (Diary #206)

We have to give 100%!

Notice, that Jesus said to “go”, and not to “stay in”. He clearly wants us to go out and to get poor sinners to come to His feast. He wants us to do the very best that we can, and like He said, He will make up for what we lack (Diary #1074). I can attest to the many miracles that have happened to boost our efforts to save souls. We have to give 100%, of all of our strength, for Jesus to perform the miracles. Please look at these [front page headlines](#) from our efforts to promote the feast.

Jesus said *“Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.”* (Diary, 1074) So that is what we have to do; give the Lord Jesus 100%. Jesus is relying on us to help Him. By virtue of our Baptism, we are called to evangelize. Make it your business to see that your parish does everything possible to save the souls of the lost within your parish area.

Don't let one soul perish!

It is time to focus on saving poor sinners, right now, and in full force, before it is too late. We can't wait another minute. How would we like to be one of those poor souls that ended up in hell for all eternity, because we weren't told about this great Feast of Divine Mercy? Do we really love our neighbor as Jesus asked us to do? The greatest act of charity is to help your neighbor to secure his or her salvation.

We already have a good idea, what Jesus had requested, through St. Faustina, that He wanted us to do to prepare our parishes, for the Feast of Mercy; and that is going out and bringing poor sinners to the feast; telling everyone about His unfathomable mercy and the promise of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment; and also solemnly blessing and venerating the Image of Divine Mercy; and acts of mercy.

So how do we celebrate the Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday? Well, the most important thing is to “bring” people to the feast. By this, we mean, to bring people to any Mass, that day, and asking them to prepare by first going to Confession. The Church allows, for the plenary indulgence, for a soul to go to Confession, up to 20 days, before or after, but if someone is in mortal sin, they should confess before.

Here are some simple guidelines:

1. Priests should tell everybody about the plenary indulgence. This should start, at least, on Easter Sunday because they can profit the most from it. Newspaper, TV, and radio ads, inviting fallen-away Catholics to come back to the practice of their faith have proven to be very successful.
2. Priests should be generous in hearing Confessions. Extra confession time, just before Divine Mercy Sunday, can be very helpful. Those parishioners that have already confessed, within 20 days, should be instructed to make room for those that haven't confessed yet. This will greatly help our priests.
3. Priests should lead the prayers for the indulgences (Apostles Creed, Our Father, and a prayer for the Pope) after all of the Masses on Divine Mercy Sunday, including the Saturday vigil Mass, and at any other Divine Mercy liturgical events on that day.
4. The solemn blessing and veneration of the Divine Mercy image. Displaying the Divine Mercy image actually helps people to better understand what is in the Gospel (trusting in Jesus, and the 2 rays, the Blood and Water coming from the Heart of Jesus; indicating Communion and the washing away of sins) and the theme of mercy in the other readings on this particular Sunday.

Making Jesus happy by our efforts!

We will make Jesus much happier if we focus on getting the Easter-only and fallen-away Catholics to come back to Church and to the practice of their faith on that day, rather than putting our efforts into having what is referred to as parties for devotees.

Remember what Jesus said *“The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness”*. (Diary 1397) If we truly love Jesus, we will do all that we can to help Him save souls. Let us recall the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15: 3-7: *3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.*

So, isn't it more important to “go out” and to find the lost sheep, than to “stay in” and have a “party for devotees”? Although praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet is very powerful, don't you think that Jesus would be much happier if he saw you walking into Mass with an Easter-only or fallen-away Catholic on Divine Mercy Sunday, or if you worked really hard and brought in hundreds of poor sinners?

Let us gently remind our priests of the obligation to reach out to everyone in our area, including non believers, that [Canon Law 771.2](#) requires of priests and bishops. This goes right along with what Pope Francis has been calling all of us to do. We must offer our priests all of the strength that we can muster, and encourage them to make the effort to reach out to everyone, because Jesus desires that all be saved.

We must give it everything that we have. If we do, we will see that Jesus will help us and I can attest that Jesus will surely keep His promise and greatly multiply our efforts. Remember what Jesus said *“Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.”* (Diary, 1074)

Resources to help your parish

We have a tri-fold leaflet for priests [“How to Celebrate Mercy Sunday”](#) which contain the guidelines, that is available on our website for printing. It could prove to be of great benefit, to get priests to correctly use the Feast of Divine Mercy, as a great tool for evangelization, that can greatly help to bring poor sinners and fallen-away Catholics back to the practice of their faith. The guidelines are formed from Vatican documents of Pope John Paul II and the experience of priests and bishops.

Door to Door Evangelization Leaflet

We also have our new leaflet called [Come to the Feast of Divine Mercy](#). This new leaflet can be used as a hand out for door to door evangelization or at any time that we may run across a Catholic that hasn't been practicing their faith. Look for it on our website under that title. You can order leaflets from us or download them and print them. Any leaflet on our website is free to use, but please credit our ministry.

Full-page Newspaper ad to attract lapsed Catholics

We also have a [full-page newspaper ad](#) that has been successfully used, over the years, to attract fallen-away Catholics to come back to the practice of their faith and to gain the incredible graces that are available on Divine Mercy Sunday. The ad can be made smaller or tailored to fit the needs of newspapers and localities.

Let us all remember what Jesus said *“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners”* (699). Let's all go out and find every lost soul and bring them back home to the Catholic Church. The grace of Divine Mercy Sunday is a great gift that everyone should know about! Please also read [“Is your parish correctly celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday”](#).

Don't forget to use our [Bulletin Insert and Confession Guide](#), on Easter Sunday, so that the Easter-only Catholics will find it easier to come back to the faith.

Please use our website resources: www.DivineMercySunday.com

Robert R. Allard, Director, Apostles of Divine Mercy