

Heart of Jesus, *patient and full of mercy*

June 6



Pray

Perhaps the most well-known reflection on the merciful heart of Jesus can be found in the Divine Mercy devotion. Saint Faustina Kowalska, a 20th century Polish sister, revealed that Jesus appeared to her with rays emanating from his heart and instructed her to paint his image with the signature “Jesus, I trust in you,” and that all who venerate the image of Divine Mercy will not perish. Trusting in the endless mercy of Jesus, let us pray with Saint Faustina from the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#).



Divine Mercy by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen (*Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*, 950).

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Learn

The merciful heart of Jesus is at the center of his ministry, both in Scripture and throughout the history of the Church. Saint John Paul II reflects that when we draw close to the heart of Christ, it is revealed that the “merciful love of the Father...constituted the central content of the messianic mission of the Son of Man” (*Dives in Misericordia*, 1980). To this point, Saint Gregory the Great instructs us to “learn the Heart of God in the words of God;” and we see the heart of God revealed when Jesus quotes the prophet Hosea to the Pharisees, saying, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice’” (Matthew 9:13).

The earliest saints of the Church took Christ’s command seriously, preaching that our response to the words of Jesus must be to live our faith by showing mercy to others. In the third century, Saint Gregory of Nazianzus taught, “The Lord of all asks for mercy, not sacrifice... Let us then show him mercy in the persons of the poor and those who today are lying on the ground, so that when we come to leave this world they may receive us into everlasting dwelling places” (*Oratio XIV*, 40: PG 35, Paris 1886, 910).

Act

In devoting ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are challenged to imitate Christ’s mercy. Pope Leo XIV points to the parable of the Good Samaritan as the ultimate example of Christ’s merciful love: “The final words of the Gospel parable — ‘Go and do likewise’ (Lk 10:37) — represent a mandate that every Christian must daily take to heart” (*Dilexi Te*, no. 107). Amid the many challenges facing our nation today, how can you be a beacon of mercy? Pope Francis reminds us that “even in our slightest works of mercy, his heart is glorified and displays all its grandeur” (*Dilexit Nos*, no. 203). Explore this resource, [250 Works of Mercy](#), and commit to frequent, small works of mercy this year.

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus