

# ACTION GUIDE

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



### INTRODUCTION

Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when civilization began again to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of every human life.

**The resources referenced in this action guide can be found at [respectlife.org/action-guides](https://respectlife.org/action-guides), unless otherwise noted.**

In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning His Divine Mercy that were recorded in her *Diary*. St. Faustina's *Diary* records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy be observed. On May 5, 2000, five days

after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

Since the legalization of abortion in our country, millions of women, men, and families have been hurt by abortion. By the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Many inaccurately feel that abortion is "the unforgivable sin." They need to hear that God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion.

The Sunday of Divine Mercy provides an important opportunity to share Christ's message of mercy, especially with those who have been wounded by abortion. Resources, including a sample timeline, homily helps, announcements, sample intercessions, and an activity are provided in this action guide to help you spread the message of Divine Mercy with those most in need of healing. You are encouraged to adapt these resources as needed to fit your specific circumstances. Free downloads and additional electronic resources can be found at [respectlife.org/action-guides](https://respectlife.org/action-guides).

### What is Project Rachel?

Project Rachel is the abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, therapists, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, support groups, retreats, and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. For more information, contact your diocese or visit [usccb.org/abortionhealing](https://usccb.org/abortionhealing).

