

Apostles of Divine Mercy

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2016 Apostles Newsletter

Dear Fellow Apostles,

Praised be the Lord Jesus, for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy!

Pope Francis has been constantly urging us to get out of our comfort zones and to get out into the streets, and to evangelize! Incredibly, he has given us this great gift of a special Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy; only the fourth extraordinary jubilee in the history of the Church. What an incredible shot in the arm, this is, for all who promote Divine Mercy!

As you might have deciphered, from our writings, throughout these years, that we have been urging everyone to go “out” and to evangelize, whom Jesus called “fainting souls”, instead of staying in our “comfort zones” and organizing, what I have coined as “parties for devotees”, that mostly, only devotees attend. It is time, in this great “Jubilee Year of Mercy”, to get it right, once and for all, and to correctly celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Many parish efforts for Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations mostly consist of organizing afternoon devotions that are attended by, primarily, just devotees. We must consider how many of (the ones that Jesus called “fainting souls”) are actually going to attend a strange (to them) devotional prayer service, and then attend a Mass to receive Holy Communion. Have we forgotten that the real purpose of this Feast of Divine 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 really 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.”***

Let's focus on these words ***“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion.*** These are some of the most important words to focus on. We have to

think of those people who Jesus most wants to save; poor sinners; people who have been away from the practice of their faith, which, mostly include: Easter-only and fallen-away Catholics. These people need to go to Confession and then receive Holy Communion!

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, more, 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. Don't you think that it hurts the Lord Jesus when devotees haven't even thought about these poor sinners? If we truly love Jesus, we would do "everything that we can" to save sinners.

What is your parish doing?

So what is your parish going to do, in this incredible Jubilee Year of Mercy? Will they be focusing, all of their energy, on saving poor sinners or will they be just focusing, all of their energy, on organizing and advertising a parish "party for devotees"? In this extraordinary time, of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, isn't it about time that we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in such a way that we will help Jesus to save "poor sinners" and to bring home 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 when these souls are lost? Isn't it about time, to celebrate the Feast of Mercy, in the way that Jesus would want us to, by going out and evangelizing, instead of having a party for ourselves?

Many misdirected devotees are asking priests for things that Jesus never asked us to do on His Feast of Mercy. Isn't it 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 on organizing devotional parties? Don't we need to get out of our comfort zones and to get out on to the streets?

Jesus told Saint 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 of Mercy. 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, over the years, to boost our efforts to save souls. We have to give Jesus a full "100%, of all of our strength", for Jesus to perform the miracles. Please look at these [front page headlines](#) from one incredible effort 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 it possibly can, to save the souls of all of the lost, poor sinners, within your parish area.

It is time to focus on saving poor sinners, right now, and in full force, before it is too late. We really can't wait any longer. 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? Isn't the greatest act of charity, to help your neighbor to secure his or her salvation? What are we waiting for?

We already have a very good idea, what Jesus really 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 to perform acts of mercy. What greater act of mercy, could there possibly be, than to save souls from eternal damnation?

So how do we celebrate?

So how do we celebrate the great Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday? Well, the most important thing is to do, is to "bring" people to the feast. By this, we invite people to any Mass, on that day, and asking them to prepare by first going to Confession. The Church allows, for a soul to go to Confession, for any plenary indulgence, including this feast, 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 (the Easter-only Catholics) can most profit from it. Also, 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 had a chance to confess yet. This will greatly help out 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, and this would include the Saturday vigil Masses, and at any other liturgical events, on that day, as is indicated in the "Duties of Priests", found in the plenary indulgence.
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.
5. If your parish is in need of a good sized Divine Mercy Image, our ministry relies on the support of Apostles, like you, who help their parishes to obtain images. We are currently having a 50% off sale in honor of the Jubilee of Mercy. You can see our wide assortment of our very high quality Divine Mercy images on our other website: www.DivineMercyPictures.co

Making Jesus happy by our efforts!

Think: we'll make Jesus much happier if we focus on getting the Easter-only and fallen-away Catholics to come back to the 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: *So he told them this parable: "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? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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.' 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 Chaplet of The Divine Mercy 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 to this incredible feast?

Gently remind our cherished priests

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](#) specifically requires of our 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 greatest effort to reach out to everyone, because Jesus desires that all be saved.

We must give it everything that we have, and if we do, we will see that Jesus will surely help us. I can attest, that Jesus will surely keep His promise and greatly multiply all of 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

For Priests:

We have a tri-fold leaflet for priests "[How to Celebrate Mercy Sunday](#)" that contains all of the guidelines, and 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, and 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, the plenary indulgence, and the experience of priests and bishops.

For Priests, continued:

We have a special section, on our website, for Bishop and Priests, which can be found here: http://www.divinemercury.com/documents_for_bishops_priests.htm Priests will especially enjoy these pages which include: The theology of the Feast of Mercy; how the Octave of Easter relates to Divine Mercy Sunday; Canon Law, as it relates to reaching out to those in their areas; and resources the parish can use to encourage participation.

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 list our website so people can get more from it.

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 this article on our website: [“Is your parish correctly celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday”](#).

So ask yourself “Am I really doing the best that I can to help Jesus, with His incredible Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday, in this incredible Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy? Am I really focused on helping Jesus save every soul? Am I really caring for my fellow man? Am I really helping my parish to use Divine Mercy Sunday for Evangelization?”

If you answered “yes” to all of these questions, God will surely bless all of your efforts! I know He will, because He promised it, and when He says something, He surely means it! I can attest to that! I personally heard those words: read [My Testimony](#). If I can be of any help, please, by all means, contact me, by e-mail or phone. I'm here for all of you!

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 practice of their faith.

Please use our website resources: www.DivineMercySunday.com

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Robert R. Allard, Director,
Apostles of Divine Mercy