

# *Apostles of Divine Mercy*

801 S.E. Forgal Street, Port St. Lucie, Florida, USA 34983-2737

Internet-mail address: [robertallard@divinemercurysunday.com](mailto:robertallard@divinemercurysunday.com)

Tel. 1-888-732-0722 USA & Canada, 1-772-343-9475 local

Website address: <http://www.DivineMercySunday.com>



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## *2017 Apostles Newsletter*

Dear Fellow Apostles,

Praised be the Lord Jesus, for His, extraordinary, Divine Mercy!

***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”*** John 10:10 KJV. These words, ***“that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”*** have come to mean, so much to me, in these last couple of years. It seems that, everyday, the Lord is making me, to know, just how much He wants to lavish His blessings upon us.

I made a New Year’s resolution, two years, ago, to try to express, openly, just how much I appreciate, all that the Lord has done for me. I just started looking at all of the blessings that the Lord has given me, and then, expressing it, verbally, in front of others. I’ve been “overwhelmed” with all of the blessings, gifts, and graces, that the Lord has given to me. When the Lord hears you, thanking Him, openly, He showers graces on you, all the more.

More and more, I am coming to realize that “blessing us”, is all that, our Heavenly Father really wanted to do. And “blessing us”, is all that, He still wants to do! It was the Lord’s intention, to create a, loving, family, that He could bless, “abundantly”. We faltered, and God, our Father, has given us, His, dearly, beloved son, to die for us on the Cross, and get us back on track, to receive, again, the abundant blessings, that were always meant for us.

What is the most, “incredible”, blessing that the Lord wants to give us? It is “eternal” life in Heaven! Not only does the Lord want to bless us, abundantly, in this life, He wants us all to have eternal life in Heaven, with Him, with, incredible, happiness, forever and ever!

How can we help people to recognize and receive all the blessings that the Lord wants to lavish on us, especially the gift of “eternal life” in Heaven? By letting everybody know, about the “extraordinary” gift, of a, complete, remission of sin and punishment, that Jesus offers us on “His” Feast of Mercy. I can’t imagine anything that is more incredible, more instantaneous, and more easy to obtain, than this gift of eternal life on the Feast of Mercy.

This gift is available to the entire planet, and don’t tell me that the Lord doesn’t want this. We read, in the Bible; ***“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,”*** (1 Tim. 2:3-4). ***“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance,”*** (2 Pet. 3:9).

As you might have deciphered, from our writings, throughout these years, we have been urging everyone to go “out” and, evangelize, whom Jesus called “fainting souls”, instead of staying in our own “comfort zones” and organizing, what I call “parties for devotees”, that mostly, only devotees attend. It is time, to end the confusion, in our local parishes and 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 (unusual 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 the 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? Will they be focusing on saving poor sinners, or will they be just focusing, all of their energy, on organizing and advertising a parish “party for devotees”? Isn’t it about time that we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in such a way that 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, staying in, and 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 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](http://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.

We have a special section, on our website, for Bishop and Priests, which can be found here: [http://www.divinemercurysunday.com/documents\\_for\\_bishops\\_priests.htm](http://www.divinemercurysunday.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](http://www.DivineMercySunday.com)

### **News from Our Ministry**

We believe that the Lord has led us to purchase 11.57 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in Forest City, North Carolina to build an international Divine Mercy retreat center. We are focusing on a quiet and peaceful setting where Priests and Bishops could come for a few days, and be re-invigorated, in their priestly ministry, learn about Divine Mercy Sunday, and leave with a renewed interest in helping Jesus save souls.

There is currently nothing but beautiful woods, on this property, located in a conservation area. There is a small brook, and a fresh spring, that feeds into it, in an area of incredible peace and quiet. We would like to build a 7500 sq. ft. facility, with a chapel, that could house up to eight priests at a time. Major airports are within one hour away. There is an incredible, new, Catholic Church, nearby, that offers Holy Communion, on an altar rail.

Because, we have always been, a not-for-profit ministry, we have absolutely no savings to build this facility. We have borrowed money, to purchase the land, and are trusting that the Lord will meet our every need. We have applied for non profit status as a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt ministry and we will be asking for donations to build this retreat center. If you feel called to help us, please contact us, by phone, or at the e-mail address, above.

May the Lord reward all of your efforts to help Him save souls!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Robert R. Allard, Director,  
Apostles of Divine Mercy