



# THE FLAME

## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL



March 2024 issue

## **DIVINE MERCY SHINES**

By Maria Muratore

According to the diary of St. Faustina our Lord said, "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a 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."

### **Extraordinary graces**

In three places in her *Diary*, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces on Divine Mercy Sunday:

I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (1109).

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).

The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).

To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good Confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy. By these conditions, our Lord is emphasizing the value of Confession and Holy Communion as miracles of mercy. The Eucharist is Jesus, Himself, the Living God, longing to pour Himself as Mercy into our hearts.

In addition, our Lord says through St. Faustina that we are to perform acts of mercy:

"Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy" (742).

"The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive" (1578).

The worthy reception of the Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday is sufficient to obtain the extraordinary graces promised by Jesus. A plenary indulgence, obtained by fulfilling the usual conditions, also is available.



## **DIVINE MERCY SHINES** *continued*

By Maria Muratore

My own experience on a very special Feast of Divine Mercy:

Many mini miracles happened on the day Peter and I were married. We were married on the feast of Divine Mercy on April 7th in 1991. This year I'm excited that Divine Mercy Sunday will once again fall on April 7th, my wedding anniversary. Although we now live in North Carolina, Peter and I are originally from New York. Both my parents and Peter's dad had businesses and their only days off were Sunday and Monday. We needed to have a Sunday wedding and had to have the Mass and ceremony at a time where it wouldn't conflict with the usual Sunday mass-

es. We were given the 2:30 pm time slot. Since my husband, Peter, proposed on Easter, we wanted to get married the following year as close to Easter as possible. We wanted to wait until after Easter to not have it during Lent. We decided on the Sunday after Easter, not realizing at first that it would be Divine Mercy Sunday. God had a plan for us. The week before our wedding, there was a snow storm and my mom was worried about the weather even looking for a white wool coat for me to wear over my dress. I told her not to worry because I won't need it. And that God would provide. Praise shining the morning of our wedding and there was a record temperature high of 85 degrees that day (in New York!). It was so beautiful. We had a Mass and ceremony that began at 2:30pm and we were fully immersed in the consecration at the 3:00pm Divine Mercy hour..



A beautiful white dove (or white pigeon, maybe) flew into the church and rested on the crown of the huge risen Christ above the altar and stayed there during the entire ceremony. A peace and joy descended upon us. A dear Jewish friend of ours took note of the bird and asked us how much we paid to have the bird fly in because he said "it was a nice touch". Among our guests two couples met and then later married, they are still happily married today with many children and soon to be grandchildren. We've been so blessed and are excited to celebrate our Anniversary this year on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Praise God!

## A JOYFUL JOURNEY

By Mary Jane Wands

My story today revolves around a 200-bed hospice in the Bronx and probably the best job I ever had as a registered nurse. I do not remember why I first applied to the facility. I think it was because one of my dear friends in nursing school and I were in the hospital for surgery at the same time. I left without any worries, my friend, however, was diagnosed with cancer with metastasis to the lungs. She had 4 small children and a husband who blamed himself for her diagnosis. The person who held the household together was dying, and the lack of support for her from her family was missing.

I learned from working with hospice patients that I just had to be present to the person I was standing or sitting in front of. I learned that the steps to death and dying are personal and cannot be rushed.

Let me speak about today. I saw a post on our community Facebook page. The husband was thanking the “community” for the prayerful support he and his wife were getting from us. We can bring food, and spend time with the person in need, but the thanks were for guidance and prayer. This gentleman stated he could feel the love through the prayers offered, and the struggles in decision-making were less of a burden due to the Christ-centered support. Even though we live with Christ in our hearts, I know there are times

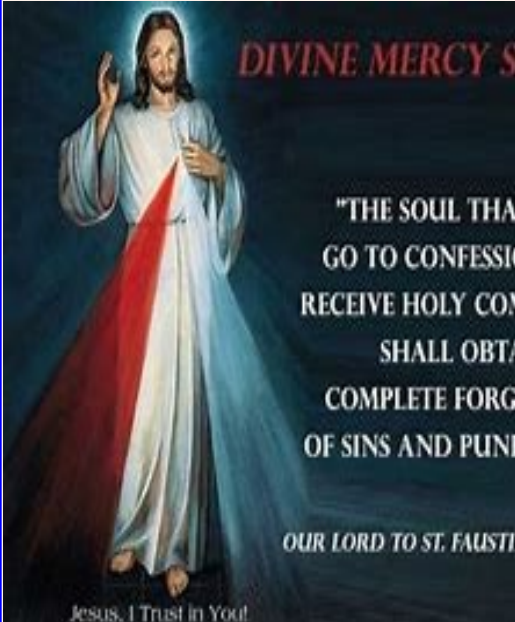
when we ask why, and maybe when, which, where as well.

I believe we are solid in our faith and can move forward daily. But, sometimes, we get stuck. We search but feel abandoned. There is a good chance, we use the stages of dying as we seek the answer from God. The stages of “dying” as put forth by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross are: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. I have lived and worked with these stages my whole professional life, and still do so today.

Sometimes I am just a pouty, cranky kid. I want what I want when I want it. Have any of you ever been in that state as an adult? I basically go through the stages set forth by Kubler-Ross. Fortunately, it does not take months to move through these stages. I do not do the depression stage well, so I just give myself a couple of hours of being pouty and cranky and move to acceptance.



God [through Jesus, Mary, St Joseph, the Holy Ghost and countless saints] has shown me that if in my challenges I seek Him right away, I find peace and answers that satisfy my inner self. I think I am preaching to the choir, but the Lord seems to want me to put this forth. I hope and pray that each of you finds the journey you travel and the burdens you struggle with are given to God for His Glory and Mercy, as He returns your trust in His infinite love to you.

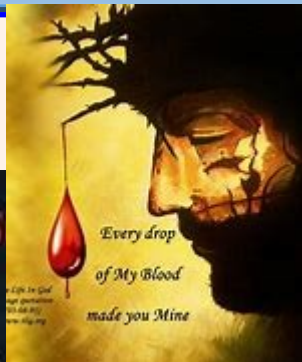
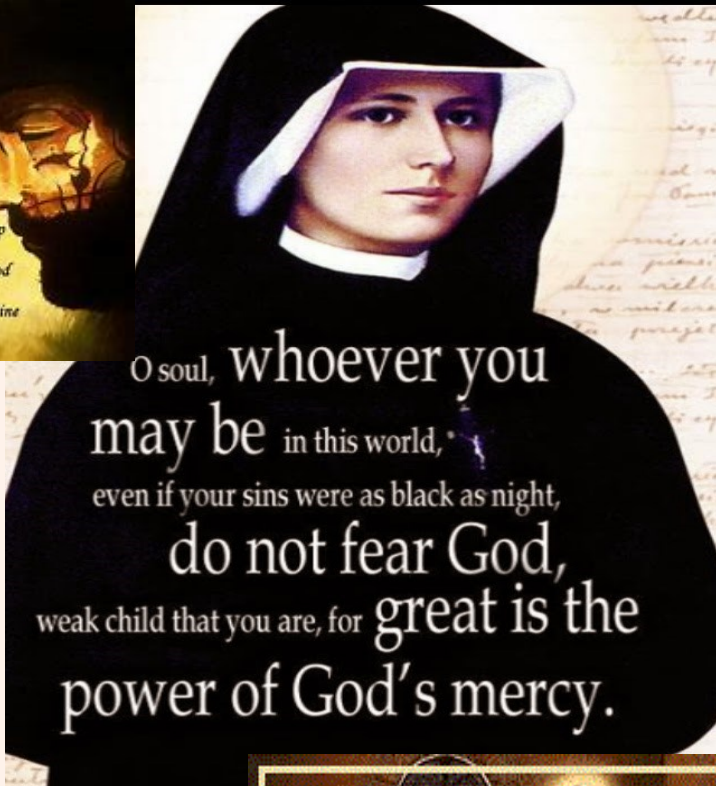


**DIVINE MERCY S**

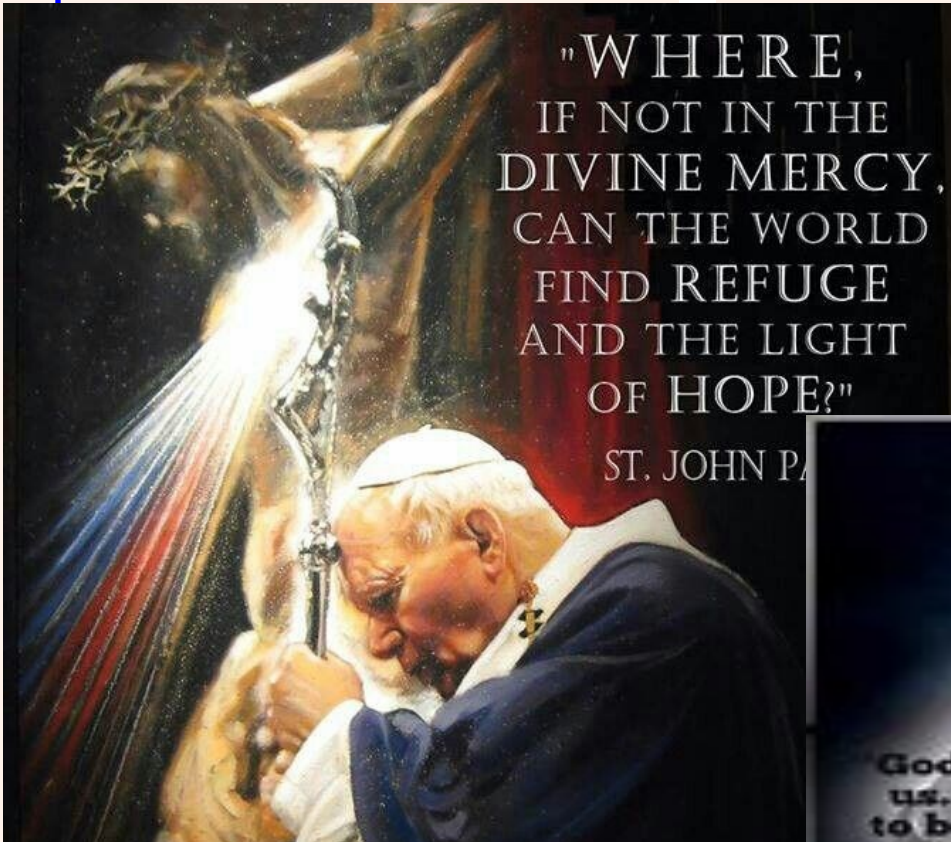
"THE SOUL THAT WILL GO TO CONFESSION AND RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION SHALL OBTAIN COMPLETE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND PUNISHMENT."

OUR LORD TO ST. FAUSTINA (DIARY 699)

Jesus, I Trust in You!

O soul, whoever you may be in this world, even if your sins were as black as night, do not fear God, weak child that you are, for great is the power of God's mercy.



"WHERE, IF NOT IN THE DIVINE MERCY, CAN THE WORLD FIND REFUGE AND THE LIGHT OF HOPE?"

ST. JOHN PAUL II




God is so merciful toward us. We too should learn to be merciful, especially with those who suffer."

POPE FRANCIS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*\*\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SERIES BEGINS:** via ZOOM Monday evenings April & May 2024. Open to prayer group leaders and ministers. Contact Maria at [mmuratore@ccsraleigh.org](mailto:mmuratore@ccsraleigh.org) if interested to join and to get more details.

**April 5, 2024** at 6:30PM Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Raleigh FESTIVAL OF PRAISE Event, Adoration and Benediction with Withyou Music ministry and Ice Cream Fellowship afterwards in the Fallon Center-ALL ages welcome!

**April 6, 2024: Couples in Christ Ministry Gathering** scheduled April 6th from 7pm to 9pm. This ministry consists of married and dating couples. Come and join us for prayer, faith sharing, testimony, fellowship and snacks/refreshments. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [couplesinchristministry@yahoo.com](mailto:couplesinchristministry@yahoo.com) with your couple's contact information (names and email addresses) by March 30th. When you RSVP we will send you more details.

*\*We plan to have additional gatherings tentatively on 6/22/24, 9/18/24 and 12/7/24. Please note these dates are tentative and may be subject to change.*

**April 26th and 27th Ignited By Truth Conference-** see website for details <https://ignitedbytruth.org/>

### SAVE THE DATES!

**June 8, 2024 SAVE THE DATE!!! Regional Fellowship Picnic** for all Prayer groups around the Diocese and families at Harris Lake Park, New Hill NC \*details to Follow

### **June 14th-15th Power and Purpose Conference:**

*\*Please contact one of the two local Power and Purpose Ambassadors for all information concerning travel arrangements and bus reservations:*

**Laura Werner (St. Mary Magdalene, Apex):** [wernerlhome@gmail.com](mailto:wernerlhome@gmail.com)

**Betty DiMassimo:(St. Luke the Evangelist, Raleigh)** [dimassimobetty@yahoo.com](mailto:dimassimobetty@yahoo.com)

## COMING FOR 2024!

-Revival Nights for the Eucharistic Revival Year at St. Michael the Archangel:

May 10th, and Aug 9th 2024-Praise and Worship with Prayer Teams available

- Healing Masses, Workshops, Conference and Seminars \*dates to be announced