

APPENDIX A

DIVINE MERCY FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

(Note to families: Please keep these instructions with the image and return them both to the church prior to the Saturday evening Vigil Mass. Thank-you!)

Jesus thanks you and your family for participating in his work of mercy by journeying with Him on this pilgrimage of mercy during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy!

Instructions for the Family During your Pilgrimage Week:

1. *Daily:* pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, before the Image (see below).
2. Consider going as a family to the Sacrament of Reconciliation during (or before or after) your pilgrimage week.
3. Encourage family members to *EACH DAY* strive to perform an act of mercy. When you see your child acting merciful, affirm this act. Share at the dinner table, or after you pray the Chaplet, what each has done to be merciful. The *Corporal Works of Mercy* are: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering travelers, comforting prisoners, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. *The Spiritual Works of Mercy* include teaching the ignorant, praying for the living and dead, correct the sinner, counseling those in doubt, consoling the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, and forgiving wrongs willingly.

THE MESSAGE -- The *Message* of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. His love itself poured out for us, and He wants no one to escape that merciful love.

The message is that God wants us to turn to him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy, before He comes as the just Judge. This turning with trust to Him who is Mercy itself is the only source of peace for mankind. Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the troubled world. There is no escaping that *answer*.

THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY – Jesus appeared to St. Faustina with rays of red and pale light streaming from the area around His heart. His hand was raised in blessing, recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night (see John 20:19-23).

He asked St. Faustina to have this vision painted along with the words, "Jesus, I Trust in You!" He told Faustina, "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: *Jesus, I trust in you*" (Diary of St. Faustina, paragraph 327).

Jesus explained that the rays represented the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side, and taught St. Faustina the prayer, "O blood and water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you" (Diary 84).

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY – prayed on ordinary rosary beads. Our Lord taught St. Faustina a prayer for mercy that she was to pray "unceasingly." He told her that by praying in this way her prayers would have great power for the conversion of sinners, for peace for the dying, and even for controlling nature.

1. Begin with the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Creed.
2. On each decade large bead, pray: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, *in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*
3. On each decade 10 small beads, pray: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, *have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
4. After 5 decades, at the end, pray three (3) times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us, and on the whole world.

THE RESPONSE OF TRUST AND CONVERSION – What God most wants of us is to turn to Him with *trust*. And the first act of trust is: *receive* His mercy. To trust God is to rely on Him who is mercy itself. The Lord wants us to live with trust in Him in all circumstances. We trust Him because He is God, and He loves us and cares for us.

His mercy is always available to us no matter what we have done or what state we are in, even if our sins are as black as night, and we are filled with fears and anxieties.

“The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy” (Diary 723).

But there is more we can do. As Catholics, as Christians, we can go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be reconciled to God and to man. The Lord wants us to live reconciled with Him and one another.

THE RESPONSE OF MERCY TOWARD OTHERS – Not only are we to receive his mercy, but we are to use it, by being merciful to others by our actions, by our words, and by our prayers; in other words, by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy.

MERCY – THE MESSAGE AND RESPONSE THROUGH THE AGES – The message and response of mercy is not something new. In the past God spoke a message of mercy through the patriarchs and prophets – through Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah and many others.

In the last days God has spoken to us by His Son, Jesus Christ, who is Mercy personified and incarnated.

God continues to speak a word of mercy even to our generation, through the Church and its shepherds, and through Holy men and women – mystics – whom God has chosen as His vessels.

In our time, He revealed Himself to St. Faustina, a simple and holy nun in Poland during the 1930’s. He called her to be His secretary and His apostle of mercy. He spoke to her of His mercy and the way He wants us to respond to it.

DEVOTION TO THE DIVINE MERCY - Our Lord not only taught St. Faustina the fundamentals of trust, and of mercy to others, but He also revealed special ways to live out the response to His mercy. These we call the devotion to The Divine Mercy. The word “devotion” means fulfilling our vows. It is a commitment of our lives to the Lord who is Mercy itself.

By giving our lives to The Divine Mercy – Jesus Christ Himself – we become instruments of His mercy to others, and so we can live out the command of the Lord: “Be merciful even as your Father is merciful”(Lk 6:36).

Through Sister Faustina, Our Lord gave us special means of drawing on His mercy: an Image of The Divine Mercy, a Feast of Mercy (celebrated the Sunday following Easter), a novena, and prayer at the 3:00 o’clock hour – the hour of His death.

These special means are in addition to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation that have been given to the Church.

THE THREE O’CLOCK HOUR – In his revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus asked for special, daily remembrance at 3 o’clock, the very hour He died for us on the cross: “*At three o’clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony: This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion*” (Diary 1320).

At 3 o’clock we can pray: “O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You (Diary 84). *For more Divine Mercy resources, visit www.marian.org*

DIVINE MERCY FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

The Divine Mercy Image & accompanying instruction sheet may be picked up after any weekend mass.

Please return the Image any time on Saturday before the Saturday evening vigil mass.

Start Date:	Name:	Phone:	Start Date	Name:	Phone:
13-Dec			5-Jun		
20-Dec			12-Jun		
27-Dec			19-Jun		
3-Jan			26-Jun		
10-Jan			3-Jul		
17-Jan			10-Jul		
24-Jan			17-Jul		
31-Jan			24-Jul		
7-Feb			31-Jul		
14-Feb			7-Aug		
21-Feb			14-Aug		
28-Feb			21-Aug		
6-Mar			28-Aug		
13-Mar			4-Sep		
20-Mar			11-Sep		
27-Mar			18-Sep		
3-Apr			25-Sep		
10-Apr			2-Oct		
17-Apr			9-Oct		
24-Apr			16-Oct		
1-May			23-Oct		
8-May			30-Oct		
15-May			6-Nov		
22-May			13-Nov		
29-May					