

Life

St. Faustina was born in 1905 in a village in Glogowiec, Poland to a Catholic family. Due to poverty, after receiving less than three years' education, she left home at 16 to work as a housemaid. At age 20, she joined the Sisters of Our lady of Mercy and became Sister Maria Faustina. She was responsible for cooking, gardening and door-keeping. She died at the age of 33 due to sickness. Sister Faustina's life seemed uneventful, but Jesus chose to appear to her and gave her a sacred mission to preach the mercy of God to everyone, call the world to God's kindness, and implement a new way of devotion to the Divine Mercy. Sister Faustina was willing to carry out God's will. Her monastic life was full of sufferings both physically (such as diseases) and mentally (ridiculed by others who did not understand her), but she endured silently and made atonement for others. As requested by Jesus, she wrote a diary and recorded Jesus' appearances and messages in detail. In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis called her "the great apostle of mercy". (#24).

Reflection

Let us reflect on the important messages from Sister Faustina's diary:

1. Venerate the image of Divine Mercy: On February 22, 1931, in a vision to Sister Faustina, Jesus was in a white garment and raised one hand in the blessing position, while the other hand rested on his chest. Two lights emanated from his heart, one red and one white. Jesus commanded her to paint the image, with these words under it: "Jesus, I trust in you". Jesus hoped that this image receives veneration, and said, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as my own glory." (#47-48). Jesus later explained: "The two rays denote blood and water. The pale ray stands for the water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls ... " (# 299).
2. Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the second Sunday of Easter: "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." (#699).



Jesus does not require us to do a lot of things, only that we are willing to trust him and accept his gift of mercy.

Prayer

On September 13, 1935, Jesus taught Sister Faustina how to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet. Sister Faustina's diary records that she saw an angel, the executor of divine wrath, in a vision. He was preparing to strike the world and punish the sinners. She began to pray, but she had no strength. Then Jesus taught her to recite a passage, which was full of grace and power, and successfully stopped the angel to execute the righteous punishments. Afterwards Jesus taught her the Divine Mercy Chaplet to calm the Lord's anger. (#474-475). Jesus promised: "It pleases me to grant everything they ask of me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one. (#1541).

Let us recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet for ourselves and others to obtain abundant graces and appease divine wrath.

May we learn from Sister Faustina, live in the mercy of God, and act according to God's will.

St. Faustina, pray for us.