



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday again. This incredible gift from Almighty God is the gift that keeps on giving, as He calls us back to His Heart! It's all about relationship – God's relationship with us; our relationship with God. Even "while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "God, who is rich in mercy" (Ephesians 2:4), spares nothing that we may be embraced by His love.

What are the areas where we need mercy? Of course, we know the general idea – sin. But I want you to think specifically about your own life. What are the areas that you need God's mercy? Areas of addiction... areas of brokenness... areas that you hide in the darkness... areas of shame. Nothing is too big for God to take care of. He *is* merciful love. The gift of the Divine Mercy revelations are a beautiful way of emphasizing our need for mercy and His desire to pour it out.

Remember **FINCH: Feast, Image, Novena, Chaplet, Hour**. Today, on the FEAST, we hear Jesus say:

Tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. 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 graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.... The Feast of Mercy emerges from My very depths of tenderness.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (*Diary* 699, emphasis added)

That means: **NO PUNISHMENT!**

Remember Pope Francis' reminder: God never tires of forgiving; it is we who tire of asking for forgiveness. I pray that you open yourself today (and each day) to that incredible mercy! We do this by trusting Him. Remember Jesus' words:

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. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is My desire to give much, very much. (*Diary* 1578)

Trust in God's mercy is everything! Trust is not the same as a presumption, which says, "Since God is so merciful, I can keep on sinning." Another way of describing presumption is, "Better to ask for forgiveness than permission." No, trust recognizes the sin as wrong: hurtful to self and destructive to our relationship with God and others. Trust *tries* to change, but does not fret over sin, nor worry when, in one's weakness, one is unable to overcome it. Rather, trust keeps running to the arms of the God of mercy!

To conclude, I just want to throw in my favorite quote from the *Diary*:

Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace. (*Diary* 1074)

May we snuggle into the merciful Heart of Jesus, receiving all of the mercy He desires to pour upon us.