

# Armata Bianca

## The White Army

Director: Dr. Sheila Kuzmic  
Editor: Mrs. Catherine Martineau

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

According to the notebooks of Saint Faustina, Jesus made the following statements about this day: **"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. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."** (Diary of

Saint Faustina, 699)

**On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II announced Divine Mercy Sunday.** The Divine Mercy Sunday devotion was celebrated unofficially in many places for some years. April 30, 2000 was the Divine Mercy Sunday of that year, and Pope John Paul II canonized St. Maria Faustina Kowalska and designated the Sunday after Easter as the Second Sunday of Easter or the Sunday of the Divine Mercy in the General Roman Calendar. He also decreed a **plenary indulgence** (the full remission of temporal punishment due for sins which have already been forgiven.) associated with this devotion. Pope John Paul II said he felt a closeness to St. Faustina when he was writing *Dives in misericordia* (Latin for "Rich in Mercy"). He died during the vigil of the Divine Mercy Sunday 2005. Helena Kowalska was the third of ten children born to a poor family in Poland. She grew up during World War I. At the age of fifteen, having attended just three years of school, she started work to support her family. At the age of 20 she was considering a vocation in the Catholic church and felt and believed that God was calling her to be a nun. Helena left for Warsaw, and applied to various convents in the capital, only to be turned down each time. The Mother superiors asked her why she wanted to become a nun and Helena said, because Jesus told me to. They laughed at her, made fun



of her and didn't believe her. She was finally accepted at the convent of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was eventually initiated as a nun on April 30, 1926, with the name Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. At the convent, sister Faustina took on menial jobs like scrubbing the floors and cleaning the bathroom. On February 22nd, 1931 Our Lord Jesus appeared to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska with rays radiating from His heart. "In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me,

**"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world."** (Diary 47)

**"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."** (Diary 48)

**"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 327)

**"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. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."** (Diary 299)

**"By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works."** (Diary 742)

After many unsuccessful attempts by the original artist to reproduce the portrait of Jesus, St. Faustina cried to Jesus truly present in the Tabernacle and He quickly consoled her **"The greatness of this image lies not in the beauty of the color or the brush, but in my grace"**. (Diary 313)



The painting of the first image of Divine Mercy is enshrined above a side altar in the Church of the Holy Spirit (Vilnius, Lithuania) Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, the artist, completed the painting in 1934 according to St. Faustina's instructions

At **Baptism**, your sins are wiped clean, you are forgiven of your sins and sanctifying grace (the life of God within us) is given to you for the first time. Baptism removes both the guilt and the punishment due to Original Sin. It is the sacrament by which we are born again of water and the Holy Spirit, by which we receive in a new and spiritual life, the dignity of adoption as sons of God and heirs of God's kingdom. **Divine Mercy Sunday is like a second Baptism. Not only are your sins forgiven but all the punishment due to your sins.** Every time we go to Confession we are forgiven but then the Priest has us do Penance for those sins. Every time you sin you will have to do time in Purgatory for those sins. We have to make reparation (do something good while here on Earth) for our sins in some way. But on Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus wants to give us so many chances to get to Heaven that He has offered us this merciful opportunity, this unfathomable Divine Mercy, a "...mercy [that] is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity." If a soul comes to Jesus, goes to confession, asks for his mercy, goes to Mass and receives Holy Communion; Jesus will wipe away not only your sins but all the punishment you deserve in Purgatory for those sins. If you die on Divine Mercy Sunday and have done all Jesus has asked for on that day,

you will go straight to Heaven because you are a Saint! This is the beautiful gift of Divine Mercy Sunday that the Church has now embraced fully. We have come to realize that everything that St. Faustina experienced has come true and that Jesus wants this. Jesus knows that the world needs mercy. **What is mercy?** Have you counted the many times in the Liturgy that we hear the word mercy? Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy...Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. **Mercy is compassion shown by God to a person who requests forgiveness for a crime or wrongdoing.** Mercy is when we help someone

who might be hurting or in serious sin and we show them the way to forgiveness. Mercy and forgiveness go together. Jesus wants us to come to Him to ask and beg for mercy. Jesus wants to pour out His mercy but He can't if we don't ask for it. Catholics ask for forgiveness when we go to Confession. The first day of the week after Easter, when Jesus

came through the doors like a ghost where the disciples were hiding, He stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you". Jesus showed them His hands and His wounds to show that He had risen from the dead. The disciples were really scared because of what happened to Jesus on Good Friday and how they abandoned Him and denied Him. They thought that Jesus would hate them. But Jesus said three times, peace be with you, to the disciples. He breathed forth the Holy Spirit on them and then said, whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you hold bound are bound. Jesus gave the disciples permission and authority to forgive sins. So that is why Priests are the tool that our Church uses to forgive sins. Jesus said to the disciples, receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, but the Trinity is three persons in one. When you go to Church on Divine Mercy Sunday, you receive the graces but also Jesus told St. Faustina that we are to practice the a,b,c's of mercy. "A" stands for "ask" for mercy, you have to **ASK Jesus for mercy** so that He can give it to you. "B" stands for "be" merciful; you have to **BE merciful to others**. You might receive mercy but with all the war in the world, families fighting, our world needs peace so we have to let mercy flow through us to others. "C" stands for "complete" trust; God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Him, the more we will receive. By doing corporal acts of mercy we are carriers of mercy to others. Corporal means body; there is the spiritual work and then there is the corporal work. (**The Spiritual Works of Mercy** are: Admonish sinners; counsel the doubtful; bear wrongs patiently; pray for the living and the dead; instruct the uninformed; comfort the sorrowful and forgive offenses.) Helping others during the recent flood by getting in cars to get food and blankets is a corporal work of mercy. **The Corporal Works of Mercy** are feeding the hungry; clothing the naked; visit the sick; comfort the imprisoned; give drink to the thirsty; shelter the homeless and bury the dead. Things that you do with your body to help other people. If you are walking down the street and you saw a little old lady fall across the way, you can choose to look the other way or you can run over there and pick her up with your body. That is a corporal work of mercy. Every time a Mother or Father wipes the tear of their child or changes their stinky diaper, they are doing a corporal work of mercy. Every time your Mother puts food on the table she is doing a corporal work of mercy, she is feeding the hungry. When your Dad goes to work to pay the bills, he is doing a corporal work of mercy. Every day we do corporal works of mercy. If you help your Mom, Dad, brother, sister, classmates, etc. then you are doing a corporal work of mercy. Jesus has been merciful to us so now we need to be merciful to others. The other day, Dr. Sheila was up at La Salette Shrine, and she was coming out of the Church when a man turned around and said to her, "Hey you!" She looked and thought I don't know him but she said, "Hi!" and he said, "I-love-you!" She said to him, "You do?" and he said "I love you!" So she walked over to him because she thought she should check this out. He was a little old man and Dr. Sheila asked him what made him say that? He said, "the Jesus in me loves you". She said, "Amen". So that little old man made her day. Nobody else told her that they loved her that day. How many times do we give someone a hug? Do you ever need a hug? How many people need a hug? Do you need a cheering up, for someone to come and say, it's o.k. I love you!? That's a corporal work of mercy! It doesn't have to cost money to do something kind.

The biggest battle we will have is the last hour of our life. During the last hour of your life Satan knows that you will be dying and going home to Jesus and Satan does not want you to get there. Many people and many of the Saints have told us that the last hour of our lives is an hour of tremendous temptation by the Devil. The Devil sometimes wants to make us turn away from God at the last moment. Jesus told St. Faustina, that we should pray the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** every day, unceasingly for the whole world and especially for souls that are dying. If we can be in the presence of the soul that is dying then that soul will be saved and will go to Heaven. Jesus knows that the last hour of our lives is an hour of great temptation by the Devil. One of the promises of the Rosary, Mary says I will go to battle for that soul at the end because that soul belongs to me. **The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy is a Eucharistic prayer.** Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, the Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist. It may be said at any time, but Our Lord specifically requested that it be used as a novena on the nine days before the Feast of Mercy (the first Sunday after Easter). **It is also especially appropriate to say the Chaplet during the three o'clock hour (recalling the time of Christ's death on the cross).** In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for special prayer and veneration for His Passion during this time. **"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...In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My passion."** (Diary, 1320). Our Lord said to St. Faustina: **"Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you. ...Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior. ...Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire to**

grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy. ...Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.” (Diary, 687, 1541, 1731).

### Prayers of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

#### **1. The Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **2. Opening Prayers (optional)**

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. (Diary, 1319)  
O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! (Diary, 84)

#### **3. Our Father**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

#### **4. Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

#### **5. The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **6. On the “Our Father” bead before each decade:**

*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.* (Diary, 476)

#### **7. On the Ten “Hail Mary” beads of each decade:**

*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

#### **8. Repeat “Eternal Father” and “For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion” remaining decades**

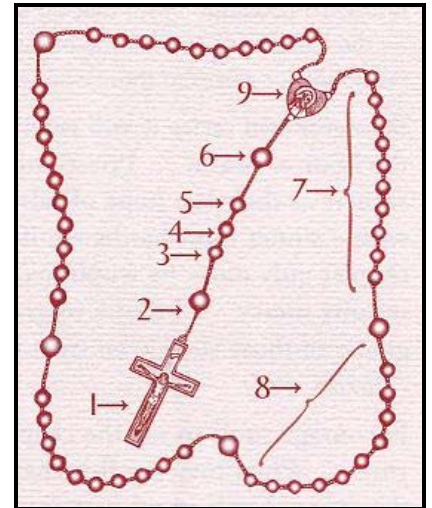
Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

#### **9. After 5 decades, conclude with Holy God (repeat three times)**

*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

#### **10. Closing Prayer (optional):**

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen. (Diary, 950)

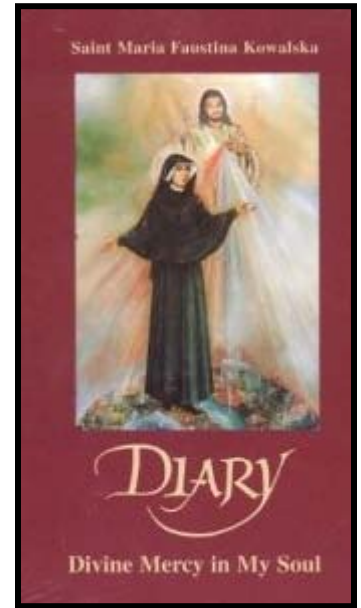


An example of faith in God and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet is told in Father Ray's April 11, 2010 homily about **Flight 1549 and The Divine Mercy** (<http://www.fatherrays.blogspot.com/>).

Next Dr. Sheila showed a DVD called **"Generations Unite in Prayer The Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song"** by **Trish Short**. The DVD has award-winning images and soul-stirring music. It is a 2007 Telly Award recipient for Excellence in Cinematography. This powerfully sung prayer with beautiful soul-stirring images and music features the voices of hundreds of children, teens, parents and grandparents. Through scenes showing ordinary people we see mercy in action for the poor, the dying and the unborn — Christians joining together in song to offer up the atoning Blood of Christ for a hurting world. Crossing all denominational lines, this DVD provides the sights and sounds that move the heart, shine with faith and soothe a hurting world. We saw some young adults praying The Divine Mercy Chaplet outside an abortion clinic. A troubled young girl was about to enter the clinic, but as she hears the prayer and sees the faithful praying, she decides to turn away and not go through with the abortion. That is how powerful this prayer is. An elderly man was dying of lung cancer. Some faithful young people volunteered to pray in the presence of this man. This man had felt like he hadn't done enough for Jesus and He wanted so much to do the film to help others have faith. He was concerned that he wasn't going to make it, but he got through the filming. It actually invigorated him enough to live one month longer to Divine Mercy Sunday. He wanted to do the novena one last time. He got out of his bed, just a few hours before he died, and he prayed to Jesus and thanked him for this opportunity. He prayed that this film would bring souls to Christ! Once he got back into bed, he lasted just a few hours. He wanted to do all of that for Jesus and was able to do it. Now everyday his family prays The Divine Mercy and always will. They have a special devotion to it. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is the last opportunity we have to ASK for God's mercy. Pope John Paul II talked about a new springtime of faith. God is recreating the face of the earth and He is beginning to do this with the children. Children have a purity of heart. This is what we need to have in order to get to Heaven. Amen.

Dr. Sheila handed out to all the boys and girls a pamphlet on how to say The Divine Mercy Chaplet. Also, she handed out a sacramental (something that has been blessed which requires respect), a prayer card of The Divine Mercy Chaplet with a small round piece of cloth that was touched by a relic of St. Faustina. It is not a first class relic (like a piece of her bone) but a third class relic (any object that is touched to a first or second class relic. Most third-class relics are small pieces of cloth). These prayer cards were blessed last year on Divine Mercy Sunday up at Stockbridge, Mass. She told the children to not throw it away or throw it around since it has been blessed and deserves respect.

St. Faustina learned that we do not walk the way of spiritual childhood by our own strength. Jesus Himself is living in us and through us, if we let Him. In fact, Jesus comes to make our hearts His dwelling place at every Holy Eucharist. In a sense, the Christ Child is born anew in our hearts at every Eucharist.



The Diary of St. Faustina

**“Families that pray together, stay together.”**

