

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend, we celebrate as a community Divine Mercy Sunday. On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world “*From now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.*”

The inspiration behind this devotion comes from a life-changing vision of Christ that St. Faustina experienced while deep in prayer. She saw our Lord wearing a white robe and raising His right hand in blessing and with His left hand resting on His heart from which flowed two rays of light. Jesus told her to paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the prayer, Jesus, I trust in you.

St. John Paul II actively promoted this message throughout his pontificate. The devotion to divine mercy fosters the virtue of trust in God’s mercy that finds its fulfillment in both the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

One of the most moving stories of mercy in action came to us on October 6, 2006, when an armed man entered an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, PA. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls did not survive. After the medics and police left, the families of the fallen came and carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. In each home, they emptied a room of furniture except for a table and chairs. They sat for a time and mourned their beloved children.

After a while, they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. You see, they chose to bury their anger before they buried their children.

A powerful example of the centrality of forgiveness for the Christian life and that God’s forgiveness must lead to the forgiveness of others. What a profound expression of divine mercy. That is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday this weekend.

Please join us at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon for our Divine Mercy prayer and reflection.

Easter joy+

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Tom".

**Fr. Tom**  
***Pastor***