

## **Divine mercy Sunday**

The Emperor Caesar Augustus gave a citizen a magnificent jewel. The man said, "This is too much for me to accept." Caesar said, "Perhaps, but it is not too much for me to give."

The story is told of a politician who, after receiving the proofs of a picture, was very angry with the photographer. He stormed back to the man's studio and screamed at him: "This picture does not do me justice!"

The photographer replied, "Sir, with a face like yours, what you need is mercy, not justice!"

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. In a vision, St. Foustina had seen the image of Jesus where white and red rays are streaming out. She explains it as it has symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God. His heart is like a prism, same ray though coming out with different colors. "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing

of Jesus, based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with his left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!".

During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1. To pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2. To tell the world about God's Generous Mercy; 3. To start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy. Word Mercy is etymologically coming from the Latin word "*miser cordiae*" which means 'suffering of heart'. God suffers because of his love for humanity as a mother suffers for her children. In the book of Isaiah we read " Can a mother forget her infant? Even should she forget, I will never forget you". A 'child' is fully dependent on mother. God created us out of love and he redeems us out of love. This Love is the very essence of God. We

know God is love, almighty, omnipotent, merciful, compassionate, Just etc. These are all belong to the very essence of God and they cannot be contradictory. God is merciful and at the same time He is Just. That means His justice is tempered with mercy. Believing in his love means believing in his mercy.