

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Several weeks ago, on a visit home, I chanced to see on the TCM Channel (Turner Classic Movies) the old movie "Titanic". Most of us know something about this tragedy. The Titanic, a brand new British Ocean Liner collided with an iceberg on the night of April 15, 1912. Titanic was on its maiden voyage and 1,514 people died in that terrible tragedy. There were several priests on board that ocean liner on its fateful trip. These priests were heroic in their ministry to the desperate people on board.

The old Titanic movie, (not the Leonardo DiCaprio version) portrayed one of the priests on board the Titanic. The priest went down to minister to someone who was trapped below deck. The officer on the deck says, "Father, the ship is sinking. For God's sake, don't go down there!" And the priest replies, "For God's sake I must go down there!" That priest had such a strong love for God, that he was willing to sacrifice his very life for people in danger no matter what happened!

In a way, that story reminds me of the love that Our Lord Jesus Christ has for each one of us. Yes, Jesus came down to this "ship" that is our world—a ship that was sinking fast due to sin and he rescued us! But at what a price—his very life poured out for us as a sacrifice on the cross.

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate what is known as "Divine Mercy Sunday" in the Church. The Divine Mercy was a special revelation granted to sister Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun in the 1930's. Our Lord appeared to Sister Faustina and showed her two rays emanating from His heart which represent the blood and water that flowed from His side as He hung upon the cross. The image of the Divine Mercy depicts Jesus pointing to His Sacred Heart which is a true vessel of mercy. When we look upon that image, we see in a significant and tangible way, the love that the Lord has for each of us. This love was proved and forged on the altar of the cross on Good Friday.

Jesus did not think of Himself. For "God's sake" He saved all of us sinners from certain death! The message of mercy is that God truly loves each and every one of us—no matter what we have done in this life and no matter how great our sins. He wants us to realize His great mercy for sinners. God does not "give up" on anyone of us, but as the good shepherd especially seeks out the lost and straying sheep which many of us are!

When we begin to taste a little of the Lord's love and mercy, then we should convey that mercy to others—especially our neighbor. Jesus says: "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." We now have a very beautiful picture of the Divine Mercy here at Saint Charles Church. I often pass that painting several times each day and always say a prayer for God's mercy.

During this wonderful Easter Season, why not come to church to pray that chaplet of the Divine Mercy? All of us need to experience God's tender mercy and compassion in our lives. Let us make this prayer our own: "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world!"

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Jerome