



## PARISH BULLETIN

We Care Because We Pray

2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter  
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April 03, 2016

Forbes Park, Makati



## The Sacred Heart of Jesus and Divine Mercy

by Jayme Blanco

The Sacred Heart of Jesus can be traced back in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but it was only through Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673 that Jesus appeared and told her *“that the love of His Heart must spread and manifest itself to men.”* With the help of her confessor Saint Claude La Colombiere, the devotion to the Sacred Heart spread in France and eventually throughout the world. The said devotion was officially recognized and approved by Pope Clement XIII in 1765.

On the other hand, the devotion to the Divine Mercy was promulgated by Saint Faustina Kowalska in the 1930's in Poland with which we are more familiar with the daily 3 o'clock prayer habit. Our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina to give her the message of mercy that *“God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others”* (EWTN). Pope John Paul II had actively promoted the message of Saint Faustina and when he canonized her in the Jubilee year 2000, he likewise proclaimed that Divine Mercy will be celebrated every second Sunday of Easter.

In contrast, both the messages of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Divine Mercy share one common theme... God's call to us for repentance. As we celebrate today Divine Mercy Sunday, we recall that our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared 2016 a special Jubilee Year of Mercy and Compassion in which everyone is encouraged to do both corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The parish is inviting all men to join the Men of the Sacred Heart. For more inquiries, you may visit our parish office.





Is there still mercy in Easter? We think of Easter as a time of rejoicing. We cast away the sullen looks and turn now to the joy of the resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead, and the world now rejoices. Mercy often gets left behind in Lent. With the cross comes mercy, and once Jesus rises from the dead, sometimes we stop thinking about mercy and move on.

But Easter is the embodiment of mercy. One of the first things Jesus does when he appears to his disciples is he gives them the Holy Spirit and then says to them *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* (John 20:23).

The forgiveness of sins - the distribution of God's mercy can only happen after the resurrection. Certainly on the cross, Jesus displayed God's mercy for all, but without the resurrection, it remains on display - forever enclosed but never released.

Easter allows God's mercy to break forth. Just as Jesus broke forth from the tomb, so the mercy of God breaks forth into the world and each of our lives. It is the gift of the resurrection.

Easter is not an afterthought to the passion but the completion of it. If Jesus did not rise, then nothing has been accomplished. St. Paul says *"if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain"* (1 Cor 15:14).

Thus, Lent leads to Easter, and mercy leads to grace. Indeed, God has shown his great mercy through the death of his son Jesus, but it is through the resurrection that creation is restored and that mercy becomes a factor in our lives. And so the resurrection leads us to gratitude. The gratitude that we have received so much mercy from God in our lives, in so many different ways.

If we focus on just the passion, we are at risk of wallowing in guilt. For we have done many terrible things. But the resurrection shifts from guilt to gratitude - from self-loathing to thanksgiving.

We are always thankful that God shows us his great mercy - yesterday, today and always.



In the 1930s, there was a young Polish nun named Sister Faustina Kowalska. She kept a diary where she wrote about her experiences of God and her thoughts on those experiences. In her entries, she focused a lot on the mercy of God.

The message is simple. It is that God loves us so much and that no sin is greater than His love. This love is the Divine Mercy of God. This love is what Sister Faustina wanted to make known to the world.

Often, we tend to fear God as a judge who will condemn us for the wrong things we do. Or we have a deep sense of unworthiness when approaching God. The Divine Mercy focuses on God, who is always ready to forgive every sinner. No sin is greater than the love of God.

But it is important to ask for this mercy. God cannot let his mercy flow out if we do not ask for it. And so

Sister Faustina invites all to approach the throne of mercy. It is like a great fountain that continuously overflows and is available to all, but few dare to approach because they are afraid or feel undeserving. The Divine Mercy of God desires that everyone to partake of its abundance.

Therefore, Sister Faustina exhorts to trust in Jesus. At the start of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis reminds that Jesus is the *'face of mercy.'* Everything Jesus did was to reveal the mercy of the father. The common phrase that the Divine Mercy devotion repeats are "Jesus, I trust in you." It is Jesus who manifests God's mercy in the world.

As we celebrate divine mercy Sunday, may we recognise that God's love is always greater than our sins. And may this lead us to approach him always especially in the sacrament of confession.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PPC PRESIDENT



Happy Easter to all! In a world racked with incessant senseless violence and persecution of our fellow Christians, let us take hope and have courage as the Risen Christ overcame death and evil. Let us pray for peace in Syria, Ukraine, Nigeria and elsewhere. We pray for Christians facing persecution around the world. As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, let us to trust in Jesus towards a more hopeful future.

Allow me to express my gratitude to everyone who made our Holy Week 2016 a success. Special thanks to the members of our worship committee and its head Mrs. Girlie Sison who organized all the activities from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil. To all who contributed both in kind and service, a warm thank you.

Looking forward, your PPC Execom has started pre-planning sessions for the Feast of St. Anthony this June. With the completion of the Amorsolo restoration, which commenced in 2014, we look forward to envisioning the restoration of our church's physical structure. I pray for everyone's continued support and participation in our upcoming activities. God Bless!

Edmund Lim, KHS  
PPC President





# Mass of the Lord's Supper



# Seven Last Words



# Chrism Mass





# Celebration of the Passion of the Lord



# Santo Entierro Procession



# Easter Vigil and Salubong







**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS | CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY - APRIL 3**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 4:00PM - CORO Practice

**MONDAY - APRIL 4**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home  
 \* 3:00PM - OFS Formation

**TUESDAY - APRIL 5**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home  
 \* 9:00AM - JPIC Hospital Ministry PGH Visitation  
 \* 2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancercise "Open to All Parishioners"  
 \* 4:00PM - Marian Cenacle Group Prayer Meeting

**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 6**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home  
 \* 4:00PM - CCD Religion Class

**THURSDAY - APRIL 7**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home  
 \* 9:00AM - Health Care Ministry Visitation at Rizal Medical Center, Pasig City

**FRIDAY - APRIL 8**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 8:00AM - Livelihood Assistance Program at St. Francis Friendship Home  
 \* 2:00PM - Health Care Ministry Dancercise "Open to All Parishioners"  
 \* 7:00PM - Household Help Charismatic Prayer Meeting  
 \* 9:00PM - Tig-Awit Choir Practice

**SATURDAY - APRIL 9**  
 \* 8:00AM - Thrift Shop  
 \* 2:00PM - CWL Scholarship meeting  
 \* 4:00PM - VOSA Choir  
 \* 4:00PM - LUKE 18 Prayer Meeting

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SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO

2016

Easter Recollection

The Appearances of Jesus

"REJOICE: THE LORD IS RISEN!"

With Fr. Phil Estrella, OMI.

APRIL 16 | 9AM - 12NN | PARISH CENTER