



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

APRIL 23, 2017

What a wonderful Holy Week we celebrated together this year. I can't thank you enough for your example of faith, love, and sacrifice as you accompanied the Lord during these Holy Days.

Just as we lived forty days of Lenten penance, we now have an extended period of Easter joy. The Church liturgy gives us fifty days to reflect on the Resurrection of Our Lord. This includes our celebration today of Divine Mercy Sunday. Today at 3:30pm we will have a holy hour in the church to honor this wonderful devotion. Here below is a brief explanation of the origin of this Feast Day:

Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God" and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. Pope St. John Paul explains:

"This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church." ~ Pope Saint John Paul II, *Memory and Identity* (2005)

God Bless, Father Jonathan

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